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That's freedom!
Photo by John Tadigiri.

Southbank Promenade and South Wharf burst back into life during the Spring Racing Carnival as many of our much-loved venues reopened to Melburnians making the most of their long-awaited freedom. *Continued on page 7.*

Southbank Boulevard: the failed anatomy of Melbourne's most expensive park

WORDS BY Sean Car
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

When a local resident cited the figure "\$44 million" at a June 29, 2020 council meeting considering the City of Melbourne's annual plan and budget, it put what has become Melbourne's most expensive park at Southbank Boulevard into stark context.

While the monumental failure of the council's vision to transform half of Southbank Boulevard into a park is well-known, and acknowledged by the council itself, the sheer waste and mismanagement has never been fully understood.

But since the council recently confirmed an updated total costing, which forecast a revised total project spend of \$47 million, *Southbank News* has sought to uncover more of the project's chequered history.

From what was originally costed at \$15.9 million in 2016, before being revised to \$34 million the following year, has now become one of the most expensive capital works projects in the City of Melbourne's history. And it's still far from finished.

It's also the project that appears to mark the beginning of the end for its mastermind in the City of Melbourne's now former director of city design Rob Adams. A council spokesperson has exclusively confirmed to *Southbank News* that Mr Adams is being transitioned to a part-time role after 37 years at the city.

So, how did it all go so horribly wrong for the council? Dr David Hamilton, a long-term Southbank resident with an impressive professional background in government, planning and economics, is the local figure who flagged the \$44 million at the council meeting in June.

Continued on page 7.

Building boom brought into sharp focus for Montague residents

Residents of a Montague apartment building have complained about being encircled by construction sites without warning. They said incursions into their lives caused by the precinct's construction boom were unacceptable.

WORDS BY Meg Hill
BUILDING

Montague Towers, situated on top of a storage facility at the corner of Montague Street and Normanby Rd, is home to around 50 residents. It is surrounded by three live construction sites – the R Iconic, the Normanby and the Oakwood.

Residents told *Southbank News* construction was happening six days a week from 6am and causing their building to shake. They said trucks regularly blocked driveways and road access, and that the high concentration of workers in the area meant car-parking was often entirely occupied.

"I've been here about 21 months now and when I moved here there was nothing in my conveyancer's report about the volume of construction that was about to commence in this immediate vicinity," said Montague Towers resident Helen Robertson.

"They're working six days a week from 6am and we don't know if they have permits for that because no one will tell us."

"There're tremours in the building, there's traffic chaos that the tradespeople are causing by parking in all the side streets blocking our driveways."

"This is going to go on for four or five years and when we started asking the [City of Port Phillip] council questions around what our rights are, they basically have no response – they say the construction has Ministerial approval, so it has nothing to do with them."

Ms Robertson said when she wrote

to the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne's office, she was redirected back to the City of Port Phillip.

Southbank News has seen photos of cracks in one resident's apartment, which the residents believe may have been caused by the construction activity.

The Montague Towers building is protected by a heritage overlay. It was formerly the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co building.

Another resident, Brian Kelly, said he was a Vietnam War veteran and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which he said was triggered by the construction vibrations.

"It's just ridiculous having to put up when you want a peaceful life and you have this going on every day and nobody cares about it," he said.

Montague Community Alliance (MCA) convenor Trisha Avery said the area surrounding Montague Towers had become the newest "hot spot" for construction-related issues this year.

"The part of Montague that is east of Normanby Rd has had challenges for the past couple of years but this part, which is west, has only just started to develop," she said.

"These kinds of problems for residents will occur at various pockets around Montague all the time – last year it was the Thistlethwaite and Ferrars [streets] area; previously it had been Gladstone St; now the hot spot has moved on to Montague St."

As reported in the previous edition of *Southbank News*, the Montague *Continued on page 5.*

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Sally Capp is back as Lord Mayor

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
ELECTIONS

Incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp has been returned to the city's top job by voters for her first full term on council following the City of Melbourne local government elections on October 24.

Ms Capp and her new Deputy Lord Mayor in Labor Party member Nicholas Reece defeated closest challenger Arron Wood and his deputy candidate Lisa Teh on the two-candidate preferred count 53 per cent to 46 per cent.

With results officially announced by the Victorian Electoral Commission on November 4, nearly two weeks after the election, Team Capp recorded nearly 28,000 primary votes in an election which saw the largest ever participation from voters.

While The Greens polled more than 1000 votes higher on primaries than Team Wood on the leadership ballot, the distribution of preferences saw Mr Wood narrowly pip The Greens on two-candidate-preferred to climb to within seven per cent of Team Capp.

The newly-elected Lord Mayor said she was honoured to lead Melbourne again.

"With counting concluded, I am honoured to have the opportunity to continue to lead Melbourne," the Lord Mayor said.

"We face a big challenge to revitalise Melbourne after the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be a big job – and I promise that you can count on me and my team."

"We will work day in and day out to ensure that Melbourne once again becomes the economic engine room of the state and the nation."

"I'd like to congratulate everyone who was successful in the City of Melbourne elections. I look forward to working with you all over the next four years, during such an important time for our community."

The makeup of the new council was also revealed on November 4, with six new faces



Your new look City of Melbourne council

Lord Mayor
Sally Capp

Deputy Lord Mayor
Nicholas Reece

Councillors

- Kevin Louey*
- Rohan Leppert*
- Jason Chang*
- Davyd Griffiths*
- Roshena Campbell*
- Olivia Ball*
- Philip Le Liu*
- Jamal Hakim*
- Elizabeth Doidge*

elected to the nine councillor positions.

Incumbent Kevin Louey was re-elected on the Team Capp ticket alongside new councillor and Liberal Party member Roshena Campbell, giving the Lord Mayor a bloc of four and casting vote on the new council.

The Greens' Rohan Leppert was also re-elected alongside new face Dr Olivia Ball, who replaces the retiring three-term Greens councillor Cathy Oke on the new council.

Liberal Party member Philip Le Liu was also re-elected on the Nick Russian-led unofficial Liberal ticket.

Team Arron Wood's Jason Chang, Jennifer Yang's number one councillor candidate and CFMEU representative Elizabeth Doidge and the Labor Party's first endorsed councillor in Royal Mail Hotel owner and North Melbourne resident Davyd Griffiths were each elected.

But perhaps the biggest shock was the surprise election of independent candidate and Docklands resident Jamal Hakim, who despite recording very low on primaries, snuck home on preferences.

While early predictions had seen Team Capp elected with a bloc of five, its vote would dip late, meaning its third indigenous candidate Mark McMillan, ultimately wasn't elected as the first Aboriginal councillor in the City of Melbourne's history.

Liberal Democrat candidate and Southbank resident Paul Silverberg was also in the running for a spot on council, having recorded a large number of dummy Liberal voters but, he too, missed out (Southbanker – page 18).

As well as Mr Wood, councillors from the previous term who ran in this election and missed out include Jackie Watts and Beverley Pinder, who both depart the council having served consecutive terms.

Overall, the new council consists of seven men and four women, and has less residents than non-residents.

The new council was sworn in at a special ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall on Tuesday, November 10 ●

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What next for Crown's One Queensbridge site?

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

After a tumultuous 2020 has seen profits plummet and damning revelations exposed, Crown Resorts' plans for the former One Queensbridge site have been thrown further into doubt amid circulating rumours of plans to sell the site.

Last month it was revealed the company's flagship Southbank casino potentially breached anti-money laundering laws, before a damning independent NSW inquiry found it unfit to hold the licence for its soon-to-open \$2.2 billion Sydney casino.

The damaging findings further compound the issues facing Victoria's largest private employer, and on the surface throw into doubt any potential movement on the 1-29 Queensbridge St development.

Without a planning permit (which expired in March 2019) and little clarity given to shareholders in August, the project which once promised \$100 million in public benefits appeared in trouble.

Activist shareholder Stephen Mayne said the clock was running out on the Southbank development.

"You would have to say the likelihood of it being developed recedes with every passing week," Mr Mayne said.

"The economics of the Sydney development are looking more and more disappointing and you'd think with Crown worried about losses and plunging revenues the last thing they'd be doing was launching a billion dollar-plus development in Melbourne. So, it wouldn't surprise at all if Crown chose to sell One Queensbridge; they don't have any form of planning approval for it, the economics have never stacked up and the company is under siege. So, you can't imagine that such an ambitious growth project would be given any form of priority in the period ahead."

Crown and former venture partner Schiavello received a favourable planning permit in 2017 to develop what would have been Australia's tallest building on the basis it would be a site of "state significance".

In return, it promised a "public benefits package" that was due to include long-awaited upgrades for locals, including to Queensbridge Square, Sandridge Bridge and Southbank Promenade.

After the permit for the mega-tower expired in 2019, and an extension was ultimately refused by Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, Crown Resorts purchased Schiavello's 50 per cent stake in the site.

In August, Crown Resorts chief executive Ken Barton told investors it maintained plans to build a hotel on the site, although it was now considering commercial or even residential



▲ Crown's hopes for a mega-tower, as previously proposed above, appear to be fading.

additions to the development.

The following month, City of Melbourne's planning chair Nicholas Reece told *Southbank News* that Crown's ongoing delays were "extremely frustrating".

Cr Reece said any decision about whether council will fund the upgrade itself would be subject to a decision by the new council.

Mr Mayne said the recent revelations against Crown, plus a near stop on migration and tourism as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, meant he would not be surprised if they opted to offload the site.

"They first bought into it several years ago now and nothing has happened. They've lost a lot of money putting up plans and not proceeding with it. So, it wouldn't surprise me if they cut their losses and sold it, and booked a loss overall."

The owners' corporation (OC) chair of nearby Freshwater Place, Peter Renner, said it was almost nine years ago he first met with Schiavello to hear proposed plans.

"It's been a long, long time," Mr Renner said. "Given the current climate, I don't think

there's anything that's going to happen really quickly. If Crown are to go ahead with the development, we at Freshwater Place would welcome that — we're not against development — we are just hopeful it would be appropriate development that would respect the rights of our owners in terms of access to daylight and privacy."

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said it was unfortunate the local benefits hinged on Crown.

"Without that money we're not getting those upgrades," he said.

Mr Penna was similarly uncertain about the site's future, but echoed Mr Renner's sentiments.

"From our point of view, we're looking forward to that site being developed, [and] all of those buildings along there between Freshwater Tower and Prima to be developed. It's quite ghastly and a blight on our area, but any development that happens on that site needs to conform with the planning scheme. It needs to respect the setbacks of Freshwater Place particularly."

“

With Crown worried about losses and plunging revenues the last thing they'd be doing was launching a billion dollar-plus development.

”

“Shocking” and “embarrassing” findings for Crown, regulator

Mr Mayne, a former contributor to this masthead and outspoken critic of the gambling industry, said the recent findings against Crown were “embarrassing” for the state's gambling regulator, the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR).

“It's been shocking the revelations coming in through the NSW inquiry where their ability to hold a licence in Sydney is under threat, which raises instant questions about the security of the Melbourne licence where many of the transgressions have occurred,” he said.

“I think it has highlighted that the VCGLR is somewhat of a paper tiger regulator, and it's embarrassing for Victoria that it's taken a NSW inquiry to reveal all sorts of dubious practices at the Melbourne casino.”

The regulator has issued Crown with a show-cause notice as to why it should not be disciplined over dealings with organised crime groups.

On November 8, Premier Daniel Andrews ruled out taking action until the NSW inquiry's final report was handed down early next year.

“You would think that the VCGLR would take some action but their history is of being particularly tame. So, it's difficult to predict which way they will jump. Daniel Andrews has a long history of support for the gambling industry,” Mr Mayne said.

“It will come down to a question whether the Premier feels sufficient pressure to insist that the regulator take much stronger action, similar to what we're seeing in NSW.” ●



David Schout




JOURNALIST

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Building boom brought into sharp focus for Montague residents

Continued from page 1.

precinct is entering a construction boom with dozens of big projects moving through the planning and construction process.

Ms Avery said this made a precinct-wide solution imperative. The MCA has been seeking “neighbourhood agreements” with developers to address the problems since 2013, but with only partial success.

“We feel strongly it has to be a precinct-wide solution, not just within the hot spots, and the solution really needs to be this neighbourhood agreement so that we always find a way of working with the developers or the builders that recognises the impact on the residents and works with them in a more amenity-minded way,” she said.

“It’s essentially that they don’t concrete-pour on Saturdays, they provide us with a schedule of work a week or two ahead so people affected can make other arrangements, they provide us with the name of a contact, they don’t park in resident parking zones or take away resident parking.”

Ms Avery said in return the MCA would promise not to stop builders from working, would not complain unduly, and would act as a conduit to ensure that they are treated respectfully by the rest of the community.

The City of Port Phillip CEO Peter Smith told *Southbank News* the council did support the idea of neighbourhood agreements but did not have an active role to play in them. He also said council would be meeting with the residents in coming weeks.

“While we support neighbourhood agreements, we do not have a role in preparing or enforcing these agreements. We encourage construction companies to provide newsletters and email updates detailing the construction process, and include notification of potential noise-intensive works to nearby residents and businesses,” he said.

“Prior to any major construction commencing in Port Phillip, we work closely with construction companies and council stakeholders to clarify council’s local laws, manage permitting expectations and encourage relationship building with nearby residents, businesses and other developers.”



▲ Montague Tower residents Noel Rickey, Helen Robertson and Reza Bolourian.

“To ensure compliance throughout the development, the Local Laws Officer for the area proactively patrols these sites.”

The Fishermans Bend Development Board will also attend the meeting with council officers and residents. The board’s chair Meredith Sussex said it was important to work with developers to reduce disruption.

“Fishermans Bend was designated as an urban growth area and rezoned for new development in 2012,” she said.

“A lot of planning has happened since then and there has also been a lot of consultation about those plans. Development is now really taking off, particularly in Montague.”

“We know that construction can cause disruption for existing residents, and it is

“

It’s essentially that they don’t concrete pour on Saturdays, they provide us with a schedule of work a week or two ahead so people affected can make other arrangements ...

”

important that we work with developers to reduce that as much as possible,” Ms Sussex said.

“Development approvals in Fishermans Bend are decided by either the Minister for Planning or by the local council. Most construction related issues are managed through local laws which are the responsibility of the local council.” ●



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JOURNALIST

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FOMO: council activation revealed

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

As Victoria slowly emerges from lockdowns, the City of Melbourne will soon look to attract visitors back to the CBD and its much-loved venues, restaurants and public spaces with a “big old dose of FOMO (fear of missing out)”.

In what comes as welcome news to the city’s businesses and residents following the devastating second wave of COVID-19 in Victoria, the council will soon launch a signature marketing campaign to revive the city with a range of COVID-safe events and activations.

Titled “FOMO”, details of the campaign seen by *Southbank News* outline a strategy to drive visitors back to the CBD and its surrounds through a series of activities and promotions which showcase the city’s range of uniquely Melbourne experiences.

While research commissioned by the council shows increasing challenges around the likes of crowds and public transport post COVID, consumers say the city is still the best location for events, festivals, museums, galleries, gigs, hospitality and shopping.

The FOMO campaign, expected to launch in January, will seek to reimagine the city and reconnect people with many of its favourite tastes, sounds and experiences that they’ve been “missing out” on during lockdowns.

Showcasing the best Melbourne has to offer to drive a real sense of FOMO, planned events and exclusive offers from the city’s favourite venues and businesses will be aimed at drawing people back in a COVID-safe manner.

Further details around some of the campaign’s activation ideas are expected to be announced later this year but many initiatives to



support the strategy, such as pedestrianisation of “little streets” and outdoor dining infrastructure, are already being actioned.

But some promotions earmarked in the strategy, such as “FOMO Fridays” and dedicated FOMO events, will seek to partner with the city’s precincts and businesses to provide special offers and experiences. Other activations flagged incorporate a range of ideas already canvassed publicly such as outdoor entertainment, dining and wayfinding experiences.

With the CBD bearing the brunt of Victoria’s economic decline from the second wave of coronavirus, talk of plans to revive the city is nothing new, with Lord Mayor Sally Capp having established a high-profile advisory board in July to provide ideas to the council.

The City of Melbourne also established the City of the Future/Recovery Taskforce at the start of the pandemic, and in September councillors endorsed a COVID-19 reactivation and

recovery plan. This was supported by a joint \$100 million recovery fund with the state government dedicated to the central city.

October 26 also saw the launch of the “Let’s Melbourne Again” campaign by a host of big businesses, creative institutions and the City of Melbourne, aimed at encouraging people to return to the city.

City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney said the coming months would see the rollout of many initiatives from its reactivation and recovery plan.

“This summer will be like no other and we’re planning some fantastic events that you won’t want to miss out on,” he said.

“Lots of people miss the city and we want to make sure that when they return it’s a vibrant place.”

“We’re planning a number of really exciting activations including Creative Laneways, our annual Christmas Festival and an extended

Melbourne Music Week.”

“We will dramatically increase our marketing program to draw people back into the city. Our marketing of the city will be intensive, creative and highly collaborative, with opportunities for businesses to participate.”

“We want to see pop-up activities bringing life into the city over the vital Christmas period and our retail and hospitality venues buzzing.”

Southbank Promenade will also be one of a number of popular city venues to see buskers return in the lead up to Christmas thanks to a partnership between the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government and ANZ.

The ANZ City Vibes program will see up to 20 buskers a day perform across 20 Melbourne CBD locations until the end of the year, to encourage people back into the city to support shops, restaurants and cafes.

More than 1000 performance spots for buskers and street artists are available, which is also part of the Let’s Melbourne Again initiative to bring life back to Melbourne’s streets.

The buskers will be integrated with upcoming events including the Melbourne Christmas Festival, Melbourne Fashion Week and Melbourne Music Week Extended to provide entertainment across the city.

To further support the busking community a digital payment platform will be piloted. At each site buskers will be able to receive contactless QR code payments or tips via people’s smartphones.

“Encouraging people to come back into the city through activations and events is critical to support local businesses and their staff,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“What better way to celebrate Melbourne’s re-opening than to catch our favourite buskers performing across the city.” ●

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Southbank Boulevard: the failed anatomy of Melbourne's most expensive park

Continued from page 1.

His apartment is one of many within earshot of what has become a permanent construction site during the past three years, and he said the constant disruption was enough for him to go back and scrutinise the council's recent budgets.

"I just got tired of this project never being delivered on, and no-one being accountable about it," he told *Southbank News*.

In an address to councillors on June 29, Dr Hamilton said his own analysis of the council's financial records had found a project expenditure of \$44 million by the end of the current financial year to June 2021.

And what's been delivered to date, dubbed the "Arts Gateway", complete with not-so-green tram tracks for a reported \$31 million in its most recent budget, is in the words of Dr Hamilton, "not a park at all".

"We were promised a park, not an open space of bluestone, woodchips and tussock grass and, frankly, that is what we are ending up with," he said.

"When it was first mooted, it was to be a park. It's not a park. The ABC is getting an outside broadcast facility, which has got some locals quite stirred up. We had more grass in the median strip before this started."

According to the council's then chair of finance, former Cr Stephen Mayne, the project's first issues stemmed from how its original budget of \$15.9 million was arrived at internally.

"While I was the chair of finance, it was the one project announced unilaterally without authorisation," he said.

While the Southbank Structure Plan from 2010 first suggested the centre median strip of Southbank Boulevard could be allocated for new parkland, it was Rob Adams who



▲ Work continues outside the ABC Building on Southbank Boulevard.

reimagined much more for the area.

And with a significant decline in traffic on Southbank Boulevard since its direct passage to the CBD was blocked by the creation of Queensbridge Square for the Commonwealth Games, what better solution to Southbank's growing lack of open space?

As part of the 2015 budget announcement, former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said, "we are continuing to turn grey into green by repurposing some of our unused roads into open space through projects like University Square, the Southbank Boulevard upgrade..."

With the City of Melbourne confirming to *Southbank News* following that announcement that it would spend the year assessing the creation of a new public park on the south side of the street, in 2016 it announced a \$15.9 million project.

Mr Mayne believed that the announcement in 2015 was "premature" and politically locked the council into a project that it couldn't back

away from.

He said that had the council known the project would blow out towards \$50 million, it would have never been supported.

"The original pricing of \$15 million was clearly ridiculous and unrealistic and now we're dealing with the debacle of a project that should never have happened," he said.

While it's unclear how the project was so heavily underbudgeted, sources within the council point to an unconventional project management arrangement, where Rob Adams spearheaded city design, while also chairing the capital works committee.

It's what many within the council believe led to a "catastrophic" stage one of the project between St Kilda Rd and Sturt St – one which is understood to have blown out by more than \$12 million and gone more than nine months over schedule under his leadership.

Dr Hamilton, who has a deep understanding of major projects, said the Rob Adams management

structure at the time defied best practice.

"Design and project management must remain separate," he said.

"This project is basic kerb and channel. It's not rocket science. It's not building freeways, the technology is pretty low-key. It's one of the things councils normally pride themselves on."

Speaking to *Southbank News* in 2019, Mr Adams pointed to unforeseen challenges with developers and agencies, including VicRoads and CitiPower, as to why stage one had become beset with delays.

A statement from a council spokesperson last month reiterated this.

"In the early stages of the project there were challenges coordinating with other agencies and projects, including Australia 108 and 55 Southbank Boulevard, along with issues we encountered during construction such as below-ground soil conditions and existing utilities."

But Dr Hamilton said the excuses simply weren't good enough. "You can't blame third parties for your mismanagement. You can't point fingers at other people," he said. "Where is the original project plan?"

The result of the failed first stage has resulted in a situation where the council has been forced to play catch-up ever since, with the project now being delivered over five stages, rather than the three originally set out.

Under the leadership of Lord Mayor Sally Capp, it's believed to have triggered a complete overhaul to the way in which major projects are delivered at the City of Melbourne.

Local cafes and institutions which call the Arts Precinct home have also expressed their frustration over the ongoing economic costs of the delays and construction to their businesses.

So badly was the first stage managed, Rob Adams is understood

to have nearly lost his job over it. But while his career may have been spared, it didn't save the project's original manager Steve Perumal, well-known to many Southbank locals, who, according to sources within the council, was stood down by Mr Adams.

But with his most recent contract as head of city design having expired in September, a council spokesperson told *Southbank News* Mr Adams would now play a part time role at the council.

"As of Monday, November 16 2020, and after first joining the City in 1983, Rob will have a part-time role as City Architect," the spokesperson said. "He will focus on mentoring across the organisation, assisting with design review, the establishment of a City Design Review Panel, and serving on the board of Queen Victoria Market."

With the project currently in the middle of stage three, from the front of the ABC towards City Rd, all eyes point to the newly-elected council to continue cleaning up the mess, which was originally due for completion this year.

While developer Beulah is expected to contribute to the section between City Rd and Queensbridge Square as part of its Southbank by Beulah development, the section along Dodds St also remains out-standing.

While the project is still set to deliver more desperately-needed open space for Southbank, Dr Hamilton said the challenge now rested on delivering something locals wanted, without blowing the budget beyond the now forecasted \$47 million.

"Deliver an outcome that people want," he said. "For a community that has 24,000 residents living in very small apartments, they could have had a big spade of green." ●

That's freedom! Changing the way we dine

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

PHOTOGRAPHY BY John Tadigiri

BUSINESS

Southbankers will be looking forward to a summer of alfresco dining as part of the City of Melbourne's plan to wake the area from a COVID-19 slumber.

It is hoped transforming the footpaths and car parking spaces of Southbank's boulevards, promenades and streets to outdoor dining will be a relief to so many hospitality businesses.

The announcement has come as welcome news to many of our riverside favourites which have already begun transforming the promenade into a vibrant dining precinct to activate the area like never before.

It has seen neighbouring hospitality businesses such as Pure South Dining, P.J. O'Brien's, Waterfront, and Bear Brass apply together to find a combined outdoor dining solution works along the busy promenade.

Phillip Kennedy from Pure South Dining said he loved the camaraderie of businesses along the river. Although outdoor dining is no quick fix to months of costs and closures, it has been encouraging to see the transformation.

"I don't know whether it looks like Naples, Paris or London, but to be on the river with the seats and plane trees is just amazing," Mr Kennedy said. "We were all surprised by how fantastic it looks and will be lobbying that outdoor dining in that area remains forever."

"We've set it up for 70 guests, and it fits nicely. There is enough space for everyone to feel safe and close enough to still make it a part of a Pure South Dining experience."

"We've got plans in the works to set up a dining area and bar outside the Esso building. We're hopeful the City of Melbourne can come to the party with it. If we can get it off the



ground, that will save our summer and go a long way to restoring hope in the future."

According to Mr Kennedy, with the addition of outdoor dining, Pure South is currently running at 50 per cent capacity; a figure that will need to increase by almost 40 per cent to return his long-time business to pre-COVID levels.

With an opening of international borders to both travellers and workers, Mr Kennedy said will come a massive wave of relief in an industry whose backbone relies on the efforts of foreign workers.

"That buzz and hum of Melbourne restaurant food culture holds itself largely by the hands of foreign workers in our kitchens, cafes and bars. Sadly, I feel Melbourne's hospitality won't return to itself until we see them return," Mr Kennedy said.

"While everyone, including myself, loves dining alfresco, it can be incredibly unreliable given the nature of the outdoors and won't see us close to our 300-seat capacity unless we get permission to expand."



More than \$1m in funding – to be shared by 130 successful recipients – has been confirmed to support outdoor dining and COVID-safe reopening as part of the council and Victorian Government's Melbourne City Recovery Fund. The remaining grants of up to \$10,000 will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

As of November 9, venues can cater for 40 guests inside subject to a density limit of one person per four sqm, and 70 outside, subject to a density limit of one person per two sqm. Those numbers will increase as of November 23, with the same density requirements applied allowing for 100 patrons inside and 200 outside.

Another Southbank stalwart making the most of the fresh air is Left Bank's Eddie Muto.

Mr Muto admits there have been several limitations and considerations while readying his venue for outdoor dining, but it has been wonderful to see the response from locals so far.

"Our landlords Mirvac have been brilliant in getting us ready for this [outdoor dining]. They've supplied our furniture and fencing

which has allowed us to get things going so quickly, but that will only be temporary," Mr Muto said.

By November 19, we will have a new structure ready on the lawn of the Promenade."

Mr Muto has been a mainstay throughout lockdown, transforming his bustling restaurant and bar into a pop-up "Mercato", much to the delight of locals.

"We loved the market, and had a great response from locals, which was great to see during lockdown," he said.

"But to give us enough time to get ready for diners, we have had to stop. It's just too hard to switch from market to restaurant and cocktail bar within a couple of hours."

"With our new summer menu in full swing and new outdoor dining structure on the way, we are incredibly excited for the season ahead."

Further down the river, the sentiment is much the same.

South Wharf Restaurants' Sam Shaw, who oversees venues including Bang Pop, Meat Market and Common Man has a new lease on life following the ease of restrictions on hospitality venues and the introduction of alfresco dining.

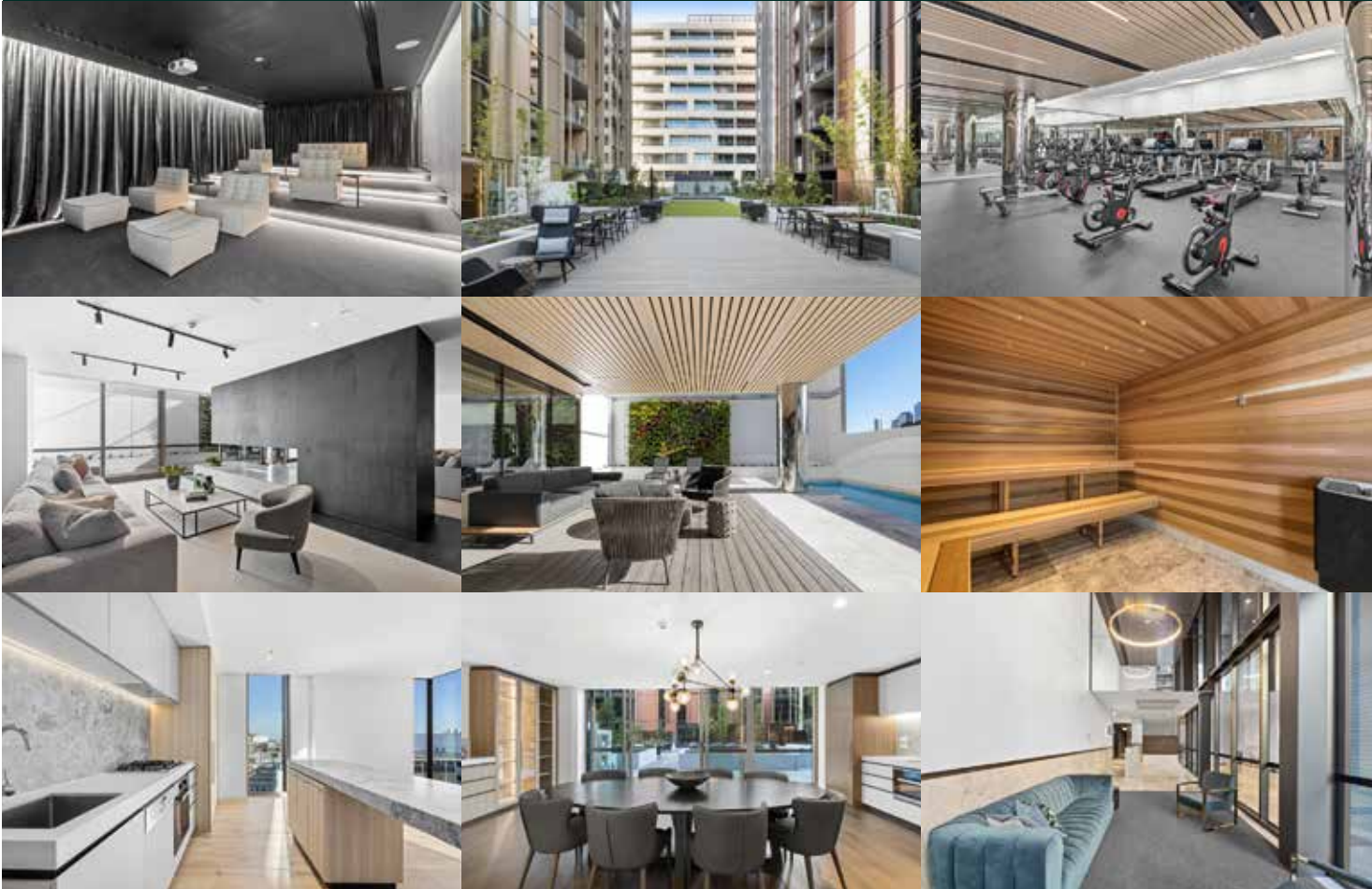
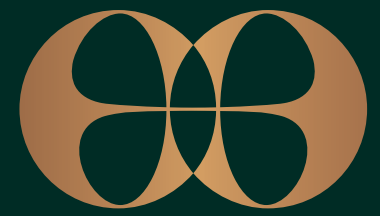
"It feels amazing. I did 90 hours of work last week, and it feels like I did nothing. We are running on pure adrenaline at the moment," Mr Shaw said.

With spirits high and a look towards the future something to anticipate, venues in Southbank all hold a similar sentiment to Pure South's Phillip Kennedy.

"We want to do outdoor dining so well that the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government and general public think, 'that was brilliant, let's do it again next year'. That's my goal," he said ●

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Big tick for Promenade park, but development concerns remain

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

While plans for a new 30-storey Riverside Quay development include a large public park along Southbank Promenade, Eureka Tower residents have expressed concern about overshadowing.

City of Melbourne councillors endorsed the 120-metre commercial development at the former home of ExxonMobil at 12 Riverside Quay, which would include 1000 sqm of green space with sweeping views out onto the Yarra River and the CBD.

Plans for the site, bought by Macau billionaire Keong Kuong Loi in 2016, would also include improved pedestrian links at the edges of the site, which the council's planning chair Nicholas Reece said was "particularly welcome".

But some residents at Eureka Tower expressed concern about the daylight impact of the development, which would be set back by around 20 metres.

Many affected residents submitted their concerns to the council while lawyers representing the owners' corporation (OC) at Eureka Tower said the evidence regarding the daylight impacts of the proposal was insufficient.

Cr Reece said the lack of consultation with residents, which the developer was not required to do in this case, was "a matter of some regret to me as a councillor".

However, he said the overall plans for the site would benefit the local community.

"It's not every day, in fact it's not even every year, that a 1000 sqm new public open space is put before us as councillors, and certainly one not on a piece of land that's worth over \$25 million," he said at the October 13 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting.

He said the council was "excited" about new inner-city parks, which included the Market St park in the CBD and Seafarers Rest Park at Northbank.

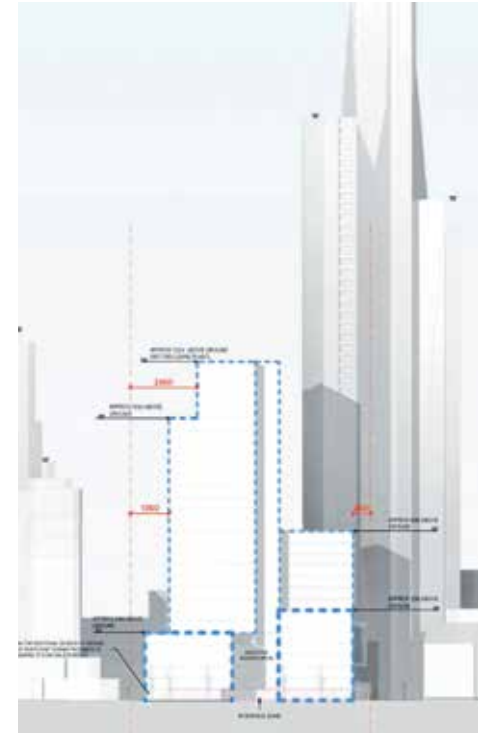
"I want to see us deliver a world-class, award-winning park here on the south bank of the river. And importantly I want to see that that new space is not considered in isolation, but that the park design is done in an integrated way so that that entire space becomes new publicly accessible space, which I think will add enormously to the amenity of this area and will be very much enjoyed by the residents of Southbank."

Cr Rohan Leppert said he "empathised with residents" who had objected to the proposal, and admitted the "the application is a really complicated one for us".

"If you look at the planning considerations before us and what's on offer here — the new open space, the new energy-efficient design that's being instigated and the much smarter and outward looking massing strategy for this



▲ Renders of the new open space along Riverside Quay (top) and Southbank Promenade (bottom).



▲ Architectural drawings of the proposed tower.

“It’s not every day, in fact it’s not even every year, that a 1000 sqm new public open space is put before us as councillors.”

building — I think this is going to be a much higher quality building. But obviously all those serious concerns do remain.”

Outgoing Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley, however, was less sympathetic to the concerns of Eureka Tower residents.

“The owners that have bought into the building that actually casts the largest [shadow] over the city by its very nature at over 300 metres tall, are concerned about the shadow of other buildings a third of its size,” he said.

“To not expect that part of Southbank to be developed and improved over time I think would be somewhat naive.”

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne will

make the ultimate decision on whether the development is approved.

Push for taxi rank to be relocated

In somewhat better news for Eureka Tower residents, the council did, however, resolve to undertake a review of the Southgate Avenue taxi rank that has been a source of contention for a number of years.

The review would “determine the potential for relocation or other adjustments to reduce conflicts whilst maintaining appropriate service”.

Cr Reece said, “Council has heard the complaints of residents and people that use this

area about that Riverside Quay taxi rank, and we will ensure that a review is undertaken. In my humble opinion, the taxi rank should be relocated to City Rd, or potentially down (towards) Freshwater Place, but I’ll wait and see what the detailed review puts forward in way of a recommendation. But I want to put it on the record that that Riverside Quay taxi rank should be moved.”

Cr Frances Gilley agreed.

“In my four years of being here it’s probably the most common conversation over any taxi rank in the city,” he said ●

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EIGHT INSPIRING MELBOURNE AWARDS FINALISTS



Street art in Southbank by CTO

This year's Melbourne Awards shine a light on community champions who have shown great leadership, kindness and generosity during COVID-19.

The Melbourne Awards are the City of Melbourne's highest accolade, celebrating inspirational people who dedicate their time and energy to making this city a world leader.

The 2020 awards recognise people who have made a significant contribution in the following categories: business, digital innovation, youth, community, essential services, and arts and culture.

Read on to discover just a few of the finalists.

1 Virtual school holiday fun

Home-delivered activity kits for kids aged 5 to 12 and full days of online fun and education led by experts have been a great help for working parents in recent months. This innovation was the brainchild of KidsCo, a company that ran on-site school holiday programs at workplaces before COVID-19.

2 Live music in your lounge room

Enjoy live music from home thanks to the weekly Isol-Aid Festival on Instagram. At the end of each set, the musicians tag the next artist to perform, sending fans down a rabbit hole of new music discovery. This event draws a growing community each week, with more than 18,500 unique viewers.

3 Selfless service

Driven by sewa (selfless service) the Sikh Volunteers group has been working harder than ever to support people of all backgrounds during COVID-19. Every day, volunteers have provided free food and water to people in need, distributing more than 84,000 meals in the past four months alone.

4 High-school hackathons

Nathaniel Diong has spent his lockdown helping educators adapt to remote learning and running virtual hackathons to inspire thousands of high-schoolers to build startups with social impact. He also helped run the global #StartingGood Virtual Summit, a free event for social entrepreneurs.

5 Stirring street art

Keep an eye out in Southbank for Peter 'CTO' Seaton's eye-catching mural that depicts two masked people in a loving embrace. The self-funded artwork made a splash in the media and resonated with millions of viewers around the world who have been yearning for connection during restrictions.

6 Accessible pet care

The vets, vet nurses and animal welfare officers at Lort Smith have worked tirelessly to support much-loved Melburnian animals and their carers during COVID-19. They have also taken on a huge emergency caseload to help keep pets with their families regardless of financial circumstances.



Lort Smith Animal Hospital

7 Pioneering science

This Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory developed the first throat swab for COVID-19 and was the first lab in the world to grow the virus – a crucial step towards developing vaccines and treatments. The lab has also played an essential role in the Asia Pacific region's public health response to the pandemic, and local testing blitzes.

8 First responders

Cherylynn McGurgan travelled with AUSMAT to Wuhan in China, the epicentre of the outbreak, to retrieve hundreds of trapped Australians. After returning home, she set up Melbourne's first screening clinics at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Even contracting COVID-19 did not stop Cherylynn. As soon as it was safe, she was back on the frontline.

The Melbourne Awards are a great opportunity for community changemakers to be recognised, raise their public profile and create valuable networks to further their goals.

To read more about this year's finalists, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards

WATCH THE AWARDS CEREMONY

To see the winners of the Melbourne Awards announced on television, including the announcement of the Melburnian of the Year, tune in to Channel 9 at 2pm on Saturday 21 November.

IN-BRIEF

BUSINESS CONCIERGE SERVICE

The City of Melbourne's expanded Business Concierge service is here for all businesses affected by COVID-19. Phone 9658 9658 and press 1 for business from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. You can also submit your query online and subscribe to our Business in Melbourne newsletter at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

FASHION WEEK REIMAGINED

Melbourne Fashion Week will return from 23 to 29 November to support local retail, fashion and hospitality industries as they respond to COVID-19. This year, for the first time ever, the program will feature both digital and in-person events, if restrictions allow. Get the latest updates at mfw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

OUTDOOR DINING

Local hospitality businesses are gearing up to expand trading onto footpaths, carparks, streets and laneways – as soon as COVID-19 restrictions ease. Our free, fast-tracked outdoor dining permits will help businesses operate safely within the health restrictions advised by the Victorian Government. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/outdoordining

COMMUNITY SERVICES REOPEN

The City of Melbourne has begun to reopen a number of its services and facilities, with modified operations and COVID-safe plans in place. For the latest information on childcare, pool-lane bookings, click-and-collect library services and more, view the frequently asked questions at melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Movement for two major Queensbridge St sites

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PLANNING

Permitted plans for a major development on Queensbridge St have been scrapped, with a new owner undertaking a redesign of the key site, while another site with an approved permit has been put on the market.

Property developer Time & Place announced in October it had bought the land at 84 - 90 Queensbridge St from previous owner New Sky Group. Time & Place said it was working to "completely redesign the development within the substantial height envelope of the previously approved planning permit".

A permit was granted for a 174-metre residential tower on the site by then Liberal Minister for Planning Matthew Guy in 2014 to then owner Starryland Melbourne, a subsidiary of Chinese group Financial Fook.

It was sold to the New Sky Group later that year. But there has been little progress on the site since, except for demolition work the New Sky Group reported in April last year.

Time & Place said the redesign provided an opportunity to apply its "new vision for high density residential living, in a format that responded to owners' and occupants' dynamic lifestyles, security, comfort and investment needs, as well as addressing more recent challenges presented by COVID-19".

It said its 62-storey development would have a strong focus on sustainability and a view to activating surrounding public space. Time & Place director Tim Price said the developer was looking to deliver projects unlike others seen before in Melbourne.

"Southbank has become renowned for glass towers, this won't be another one of those. We're looking to deliver something edgy, with a New York feel, and activate a space that the public will want to engage with," Mr Price said.

"We're pulling together a team of market leaders who share our values to create a project with a strong legacy that will have a lasting impact on Southbank and help its transition into



▲ Renders of the new proposal for 84-90 and (top right) the approved proposal at 87-127 Queensbridge streets.

one of Australia's most liveable suburbs."

The site is situated next to the Kings Way undercroft, a key area identified for public realm activation in the City of Melbourne's \$38m City Road masterplan project, which was developed after the 2014 planning permit was granted.

It includes plans to build basketball courts and new bike lanes in the undercroft.

"The Kings Way undercroft is part of the City of Melbourne's masterplan for the area and is expected to be complete by approximately 2024. Time & Place is currently involved in discussions with council on how it can best contribute to the activation of this important space, which has the capacity to become the new heart of Southbank," a spokesperson for the developer said.

With the permit for the site having been extended this year, the developer will submit an

amended planning application to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for approval.

Key Queensbridge site up for sale

A Southbank supersite is on the market after years of sitting idle despite planning approval for a \$900 million development.

The 6202 sqm site at 87-127 Queensbridge St, which extends to City Rd, was granted a planning permit by Minister for Planning Richard Wynne in 2018 for two towers at 24 and 47 levels respectively, comprising more than 700 apartments.

The land was acquired in lots between 2014 and 2016 by Chinese developer Sheng Le, which is now officially walking away from the development and hoping to land \$100 million for the site and associated permit.

The proposed development, dubbed Queens



Bridge Place, has an estimated worth of \$900 million.

A condition of the 2018 permit was the creation of the 1465 sqm pedestrian link under the building, connecting Queensbridge St and City Road and creating a pathway to Boyd Park on Balston St.

The development was endorsed with conditions by the City of Melbourne in 2018, when the developer submitted an amended application, despite concerns about the overshadowing of Boyd Park.

Southbank Residents Association (SRA) president Tony Penna at the time said the SRA did not support the proposal despite positive changes that had been made since the initial application.

"SRA made a submission to this application when it was first brought before us in April last year. At that time, we rejected the application on the grounds that Boyd Park would be significantly overshadowed from the development," he said.

"Purely due to the overshadowing of Boyd that remains with this application the SRA can't support it, but we commend the officer for the work that they've done to get the application where it is now, because it certainly is an improvement."

He also said the inclusion of the pedestrian link was a positive contribution to the site and would assist with activating a section of the street that was "unlively and unengaging" ●



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Residents still concerned about short-stay

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
STRATA

When Melbourne, and then Victoria, re-entered lockdown in July and August, some residents hoped that short-stay operators had been put out of business for at least the medium term, if not for good.

Guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Victoria (DHHS) for multi-dwelling properties clarified that private holiday rental facilities (such as Airbnb) were not permitted under stage three or four restrictions, unless they fell into one of eight exceptions.

We Live Here founder Barbara Francis said those exceptions effectively created loopholes for short-stay operators to continue to operate.

“When strangers started appearing in some buildings, that is without the foreknowledge of managers or the owners’ corporations (OCs), it indicated some die-hard short-stay operators were involved,” Ms Francis said at a forum hosted by Residents First – a council ticket which ran in last month’s City of Melbourne elections.

The DHHS guidelines stated exemptions were:

- to a person whose place of residence is the accommodation facility
- to a person who is ordinarily a resident of Victoria but has no permanent place of residence in Victoria
- to a person who has a permanent place of residence in Victoria, but that place is temporarily unavailable
- to a person, on a temporary basis, who has travelled to Victoria for work purposes
- to a person who was already a temporary guest of the accommodation facility on July 8 2020
- to a person who requires emergency accommodation, including in relation to family violence and other vulnerable groups
- to a person who requires accommodation



▲ Strata Lawyer Tom Bacon.

for work purposes, where their work is for the purposes of responding to the state of emergency in existence under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

- to a person who is subject to a Direction and Detention Notice, the Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Direction or a Detention Direction

The short-stay industry was one of the hardest hit sectors when the pandemic began, and holiday travel stopped. Ms Francis said the industry posed a health risk in the context of a pandemic.

“It is simply that the modus operandi of short term letting is totally at odds with maintaining a COVID-safe plan, it actually creates a potential health hazard,” she said.

Strata lawyer Tom Bacon told the forum apartment owners would have no control over keeping short-stays out of their buildings coming out of lockdown.

“There’s just nothing that can be done and that of course is the great disappointment here,” he said.

“The Subdivision Act 1988 and the Owners’ Corporation Act 2019, the legislation that governs short term stays, just has nothing express



▲ Example of rubbish and graffiti reported in Southbank.

written in it regarding short term stays.”

Mr Bacon said a court case that had tried to enforce rules created by OCs to stop short-stays was struck down by the Supreme Court because of the lack of attention to the issue in the legislation.

He said the only legislation on the issue was written subsequently by the Labor Government to permit short-stay letting.

“You don’t have to be too smart to work out that it’s the people coming from interstate or overseas that catch the bug and then if they don’t quarantine for a period of time then it gets out into the community,” he said.

“And if these restrictions lift and if hotel quarantine is lifted or Airbnb is allowed to be a form of quarantine then you’ve got potentially infected people that have come from all over the country if not all over the world in close proximity with all of the residents.”

What weighs on residents’ minds?

Reports of dumped rubbish spiked in Southbank during Melbourne’s two lockdowns.

According to data from Send Snap Solve, an app designed to facilitate reporting of community issues, the issue became the number

one reported issue across the country. In most places, including Southbank, it replaced illegal parking in the top spot.

As reported in *Southbank News* previously, there were reports that dumped rubbish stemmed from the collapse of the short-stay industry.

Send Snap Solve managing director Jarrod Pepper said he suspected it was also a symptom of people spending so much time confined in their own homes.

“I think people felt pretty cluttered and claustrophobic spending more time in their own homes than ever before,” he said.

With less people around, graffiti reports also rose slightly. More walking meant locals were also noticing more issues with pavements.

Southbank’s three most reported issues for the year so far were dumped rubbish, graffiti and pavement issues.

Mr Pepper said with Melbourne coming out of lockdown the trends were already changing.

“Just in the past three weeks we’re seeing illegal parking come back up to number one in many places so I’m pretty confident that by the end of the year parking issues nationally will have overtaken dumped rubbish,” he said.

Send Snap Solve has been facilitating community reporting for 10 years. It receives reports from residents and provides them to local government and other authorities.

“We exist primarily to make reporting issues in the community easier,” Mr Pepper said.

“One of the things in the inner city is that quite often who is responsible for things is convoluted, A burst water main is the water authority’s responsibility, but a blocked gutter is the council’s.”

“So, the purpose of our app is to do the work for the resident. We send the reports we get to the relevant authority.” ●

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Retail reopens ahead of Christmas trading

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Southbank retailers finally got their wish in late October as Premier Daniel Andrews gave the green light to reopen two months out from Christmas.

After an anxiety-filled year, outlets forced to shut on July 8 reopened on October 28 after a gruelling second wave of lockdowns in Melbourne.

For 112 days, most Southbank retailers were open for click-and-collect only and struggled in an environment few could remain profitable in.

Pedestrian counters during the second wave revealed foot traffic was down up to 90 per cent compared to the same time in 2019.

However, there were early signs of a bounce-back in the days following reopening.

Newly re-elected Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the news was a rich reward.

“All Melburnians will welcome today’s announcement by the Premier that our city will take a major reopening step on Wednesday. Hospitality and retail can reopen safely and that means cash registers ringing and more Melburnians back to work,” she said.

“Our community has done an amazing job to slow the spread of the virus. Melbourne did what we needed to do and so did the Premier. Now it’s time to restart our economy safely to support businesses and save jobs.”

Retailers are confident that, as movement picks up, recovery can begin.

Most office workers, however, will remain at home: employers are being told if their employees can work away from the office, they must.

Retail landlord Vicinity Centres reported good numbers at its centres, which includes DFO South Wharf, on the October 28 re-opening day.

Foot traffic was at around 80 per cent of the levels at the corresponding day in 2019.

The company announced it would be using state of the art technology to handle the return to retail, including heat-mapping to monitor and respond to congested areas in its centres.

It would also allow customers to pre-book a time to shop, while in-centre shoppers could

use a QR code to join a virtual queue, rather than lining up outside a store if capacity was reached.

Australian Retailers Association (ARA) CEO Paul Zahra welcomed the return and said small and midsize retailers had been hit hard by “significant delays and setbacks, along with mounting financial concerns”.

“But this long-awaited opening means that a COVID-safe normalcy can finally begin to emerge in Victoria,” he said.

“We are pleased at this stage that there are no further retail restrictions than those which have already been communicated, most which have proven to keep shopping a safe experience. This is a point we advocated strongly for, given the exemplary safety performance of retailers throughout the pandemic.”

The City of Melbourne is set to launch its “Shop The City” campaign from November 27 to 30, which will work with the city’s major retailers and shopping precincts to promote special offers and provide marketing assistance.

Mr Hanney said businesses could register to take part in campaign until close of business on Wednesday, November 4.

“We are looking forward to safely welcoming shoppers back into the city for our annual Shop the City event, which will run in alignment with our Christmas Festival and Melbourne Fashion Week and correspond with major sales shopping days known as Black Friday and Cyber Monday,” he said.

“It’s an opportunity for shoppers to take advantage of great deals while enjoying activations such as pop-up street runways, food and drink offerings, freebies and music. It’s been a tough year for retail and we are encouraging people to get behind city businesses and give them a much-needed boost over the summer and Christmas holiday period.”

“All activations will be run in a COVID-safe manner, adhering to the necessary restrictions at the time.” ●

For more information:
shopthecity.com.au

Recycling revamp sees great results

WORDS BY *Maeve Bannister*
SUSTAINABILITY

A Southbank local’s initiative to revamp her building’s recycling area, with lights, signs and common sense, has had hugely successful results.

Resident of The Summit, Arji Fry, who is one of the founders of the Southbank Sustainability Group, said looking after the planet had always been important to her.

“Our planet is suffering, and we need to do something about it and to do anything is better than nothing,” she said.

“[The building] was just becoming very complacent and I was disappointed in how our recycling area was being treated, no one paid attention, no one cared what they put where and we decided to try and do something about it.”

As chair of the owner’s corporation (OC) of her building, Ms Fry had the full support of the committee to undertake a recycling revamp and got to work straight away.

“The first thing we did was create signs to put up in each of the lifts, each with one message per sign about which recycling goes in which bin,” she said.

“We also set up a motion sensor-activated lighting system that simply couldn’t be ignored because as soon as someone stepped into the recycling area, the lights went on and flashed in different colours.”

In the future, Ms Fry plans to paint the floor of the recycling area in different colours guiding people to the correct bin, but budget restraints have put a halt on the additional project for now.

Most of the feedback she’s received from her fellow residents was that people didn’t know the different rules for the bins, but after reading

“

They’re simple ideas and they are easy to implement, and I’d love to see more buildings to do it, because at the end of the day it made a difference.

”

the signs they realised it was quite simple.

“All the information came from the City of Melbourne website, and I just put it on to signs that we swap out every few weeks to keep it refreshed,” she said.

Not only has Arji’s building seen an improvement in recycling habits, residents in other buildings in the area have tested her ideas.

Managing waste in apartment buildings was a central component of the City of Melbourne’s 2030 waste and resource recovery strategy adopted by the council last year, and it’s initiatives like Ms Fry’s that are valuable in decreasing waste production.

“They’re simple ideas and they are easy to implement, and I’d love to see more buildings to do it, because at the end of the day it made a difference,” Ms Fry said.

“We continue to have a really good improvement and the number of plastic bags people used to put their recycling in are just no longer there.” ●



▲ The Summit building manager Peter Todorov and Arji Fry.

Connect with your local community

The **Southbank Community Hub** is a free online space to connect with fellow Southbank locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more!

This Facebook group is owned by **Southbank News**.

If you’re a local resident or business you can join up here:

www.facebook.com/groups/southbankcommunityhub/

f SOUTHBANK
Community Hub



The Arts Precinct



Arts Precinct to benefit from \$17.2 million “summer package”

After many months of harsh lockdowns, Southbank’s Arts Precinct is set to burst back to life in summer with the help of a \$17.2 million state government package.

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

The Summer Activations program will enable Melbourne’s beloved arts and music festivals to go ahead in a COVID-safe manner and allow cultural institutions to bring their experiences outside.

Newly-appointed Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said that the package would bring back “all the things we love about Melbourne in summer”.

“This extensive program will showcase Victoria’s incredible creative talent, deliver thousands of jobs and reinvigorate our creative, hospitality and events sectors,” Mr Pearson said.

“It’s a great day for Melbourne, a great day for Victoria, and this is going to be a summer like no other.”

\$7.9 million of the package will go to institutions such as Arts Centre Melbourne to help them to bring their experiences outside on a large scale.

Arts Centre Melbourne has already planned to transform the Sidney Myer Music Bowl into a COVID-safe venue that will host 40 performances from January to March as part of its *Live at*



▲ *Danny Pearson and Claire Spencer.*

the Bowl summer festival.

A full list of the performances will be announced in early December, but the first performance is expected to be Christmas carols.

Arts Centre Melbourne CEO Claire Spencer said that after a tough lockdown, it was a “real joy” to announce the return of live performances.

“We’ll have classical music, contemporary music, dance music, comedy, theatre and programs for young people and families,” Ms Spencer said.

“So, there will be something for everybody at the Bowl during summer.”

To make the Bowl COVID-safe, platforms will be built into the side of the hill to keep groups separate, queuing will look different, hospitality venues will adhere to safety protocols and the venue will not operate at full capacity.

All up, the transformation is expected to create up to 2000 jobs in the creative and events industries.

National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) will also be

bringing their events outdoors from December, with dining and music to take place in the NGV Garden.

In January the *NGV Triennial EXTRA* Festival will take place outside, hosting weeks of late-night free performances, dance and community programs.

State Library Victoria, ACMI, Melbourne Recital Centre and Federation square will also activate their outdoor spaces with creative experiences ranging from live music to storytelling.

There’s good news for cinema lovers too, as Museums Victoria will present their Summa Plaza series which offers outdoor performances and open-air movies curated by IMAX Melbourne.

In addition to funding arts institutions, almost \$4.3 million of funding will go towards moving festivals such as the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Midsumma, Shepparton Arts Festival and Creative Clunes outdoors.

Mr Pearson said that this announcement

would be the first of many and more details were soon to come about which events would take place in Southbank.

“Today is a really important step to make sure we get back to a COVID-normal version of the Southbank we once had,” Mr Pearson said.

In October, Minister Pearson also announced that Victoria would be relaunching the “Creative State Strategy” – a policy introduced in 2016 to provide funding and boost growth in all levels of the creative industries.

“The creative industries are at the heart of Victoria’s economy, the vibrancy of our communities and our way of life – and will be essential in our post-pandemic recovery,” he said.

The announcement came with \$115 million in funding and an extensive survey for Victorian artists to provide feedback on what they think is needed to help boost the industry.

Artscentremelbourne.com.au ●

Reloading Loaded

It's some time in the '90s. MP4s haven't been invented. Disco music and speed are popular. A 19-year-old Greek boy heads off for a night on the town. He refuses to be "white". He wants to be a "wog".

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Ari travels to the north, south, east and west of the city, commenting on the culture as he goes.

In Richmond he discovers "peasant ghosts" and drugs. In Preston he picks up a seedy old guy.

As the night proceeds, Ari cartwheels through a series of experiences and reflections. His performance gets him a place as an influential "queer migrant" voice in university English courses.

Leap forward 25 years and Ari of *Loaded* has been reloaded in audio form for a new 21st century audience locked out of the clubbing scene by a virus.

The author of this seminal novel has moved on, having turned his analytical eye to other topics since – European politics, corporal punishment and Christianity.

But novelist Christos Tsiolkas is adept at creating a space, as this audio performance by actor Roy Joseph demonstrates, that still buys into the debates of today.

Tsiolkas's protagonists are unafraid to express themselves. Ari can analyse the politics of his stance even when he's out of it on drugs, dance and sex.

Tsiolkas collaborated with playwright Dan Giovannoni on the work and has updated the commentary to include mobile phones, the gentrification of the inner suburbs, new music tastes and the shift in politics from class to gender and race during this period.

The performance, which had been planned for stage in the 2020 Malthouse season, is fresh,



vivid and, somehow, even more insightful with the benefit of distance.

Loaded was revolutionary when it was released. The novel was sexually explicit, passionate and critical of Melbourne's dull Anglo culture. That divide still exists.

"I detest the eastern suburbs," Ari said. They look the same – car yards and gigantic parking lots. "TV rules here. Swipe left. Swipe right. I make a pact with myself I will not move to the east."

Such confidence had not been expressed in a first Melbourne novel, perhaps since *My Brother Jack*.

Listening to the audio file, which can be downloaded from the Malthouse website, brought back all of the excitement of the discovery that

someone clever had dived into the narcissism of youth and found it invigorating and necessary.

Male desire drives *Loaded* into some sticky places, away from the brick veneer palazzos, concrete sprawl and wannabe America of the north, and into the clubs in search of something real.

"Little Ari is the only authentic prole left," said Joe when Ari turned up at the club. "Yeah I'm keeping it real Joe," Ari said. "You better check your privilege mate," Joes replied, but Ari had already typecast him as a "wog zombie" for studying commerce.

The audio performance peaks in Ari's rediscovery of *kefi*, a Greek term meaning the distilled experience of the urge to dance. The world is spinning. Ari has found his song but then it stops,

like all good things, only too soon.

"I'm detonating," Ari said, as he was coming down. Luckily he's given the situation some thought and he steps niftily into analytical mode.

There have been just five moments in his life not clouded by ambiguity and regret, he said. He listed them.

First is the realisation that he is not responsible for his parents; second is the sight of Marlon Brando in *A Streetcar Named Desire*; third, the insensitivity of the west to the war in Syria; fourth, the blindness of the rich to AIDS sufferers and fifth, a definition of true freedom as "not giving a shit what people think".

Loaded, Malthouse Theatre, from October 30; *Reloading Loaded*, a panel discussion, Wheeler Centre, from November 10 ●

Getting ready for audiences

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Despite the fact that all of Southbank's art and theatre venues will remain officially closed during November, small impromptu performances have begun to liven up the Arts Precinct.

A group of performers appeared from nowhere to take over an empty space beneath the concrete eaves of Arts Centre Melbourne in the first week of November.

Then the bar at the Malthouse poured its first jug of beer since March in a ceremony involving bar staff.

Not to be outdone, students at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) were busily inventing new ways of inclusion while building sets for a production that may never be viewed by a live audience.

Togetherness has been difficult to create in the COVID-era for hands-on professionals, with social distancing rules forcing artists to explore new ways of collaboration.

LGBT director Rouben James has done a lot of thinking during the lockdown. That's when he came up with idea of rehearsing in the open in a prominent place on St Kilda Rd.

"It's been good because we've had nothing but time," he said of the lockdown. "There's been time to think through theory."

He said that *Bent*, a dance and visual art piece for the Midsumma Festival, was designed to fill a gap in the market.



▲ Bar manager Bear at the Malthouse bar.

"LGBT theatre tends to be high camp or tragedy. This is frustrating for young queer people," he said.

Bent is all about discovery, joy and resilience and the choice of setting with its rain-stained "stage" was handy because there weren't many people around.

The once-convivial courtyard between the Malthouse Theatre, Chunky Move and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) courtyard has also been largely empty since March.

The Malthouse café re-opened in mid-October and the bar on November 6 when bar manager Bear set up the barrels then ceremoniously tested out a jug of Coopers Pale Ale.

"It's nice to be back where everybody knows my face," Bear said. "I've been drinking at home but it's so much nicer with friends."



▲ LGBT director Rouben James and his troupe rehearse for *Bent*.

Originally from Queensland, Bear's been keeping a distance from the job but despite the lockdown there were two more degrees of freedom in Melbourne.

Arts workers at ACCA are also slowly returning. The events manager spent just four days in her new Southbank job before lockdown was declared and has been working from home ever since.

There are some on-site staff at Chunky Move and at the VCA workshop, where drama, art and film and television students are solving set problems for their productions.

They'd sawn a rowboat in half to make it easier for three girls to carry onto stage then changed their mind and joined it back again and covered it with canvas.

"Students are learning how it (stage produc-

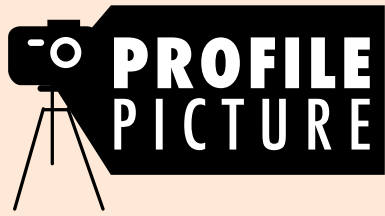
tion) works before hitting the industry," workshop manager Tim Edwards said. "We need to go about our business. We're working towards full production but we're not sure how it will manifest."

The wild card for all in the entertainment business is about developing safe methods for including live audience in performances.

The VCA productions will be filmed and the Malthouse is building an outdoor stage.

Buxton Contemporary hopes to open on December 3 with an intellectually challenging exhibition about alien culture, and ACCA on December 6 with a challenge to Stephen Jay Gould's notions of empirical science.

Both of these exhibitions promise to keep visitors thinking while maintaining a distance from others ●



▲ Fintan Redmond and PSC photography student James Pettenon at their new café Head Honcho Coffee Brewers.

Good coffee, made right

Melbournians are known around the world for their penchant for good coffee, and the next generation of café owners are taking this reputation to the next level as a sustainable and ethical business venture.

WORDS BY Maeve Bannister

Tired of their experiences in the hospitality industry where bosses cut corners to make profits at the expense of their staff and customers, James Pettenon, better known as “Chooka”, and Fintan Redmond decided they could do better.

“Our experience in hospitality was working for a few companies of different sizes that had done things in a very similar way where profit and financial gain was the bottom line,” Chooka said.

“We looked at ourselves and looked at the way the businesses had been run and thought we could definitely do it better, we could do it more

ethically, we could treat people better, we could treat our suppliers and our staff better, and we could do things in a much more sustainable and ethical way.”

The result is Head Honcho Coffee Brewers, a new café on Chatham St in Prahran which opened mid-October.

“Our motto is ‘good coffee, made right’ with the word ‘good’ meaning not just a good cup of coffee, but also it’s been sourced really well,” Chooka said.

“So yes profit, obviously, is needed for us to be an ongoing business, but the bottom line for us is providing a product that the customer can feel great about where they’re getting their coffee from.”

The remarkable thing about Chooka and Fintan is not only that they managed to start a business in 2020, but that they are both just 22 years old.

“[Owning a business] was something that I kind of always had on my to-do list and it was very much something in the long-term plan, maybe when I was 50 and had a bit of money behind me,” Chooka said.

“But I’m very glad that Fintan brought the idea forward, and we started taking it seriously because now we’ve got this tangible thing that is running the way we want.”

Chooka has also been studying a Bachelor of



Photography at Photography Studies College (PSC) in the Montague Precinct of South Melbourne.

PSC photography students are encouraged to work and even run a business while completing their degrees.

Chooka said the first weekend Head Honchos was open for business, it was amazing to see so many PSC staff and students who showed their support.

“The flexibility with the degree has been amazing, and so many of my cohort and lecturers and even the PSC librarian has come down to check

us out,” he said.

Something Chooka and Fintan were keen to foster at Head Honchos was a personable atmosphere and energy that made people feel welcome.

“If someone isn’t in a rush, we’re happy to have a chat to them for 20 minutes and we’re very much enjoying getting to know all the locals,” Chooka said.

“We’re absolutely loving it and every time a customer walks out we just kind of turn to each other and are stoked that they’ve come in and keep coming back, it’s awesome.” ●



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Southbank's almost-elected Liberal Democrat

The City of Melbourne was very close to electing a Liberal Democrat this year – whether it realised it or not. Paul Silverberg lost out by only 80 votes, on nearly six per cent of the primary vote – a result that many explained as a vote intended for the Liberal Party.

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*

Mr Silverberg had moved to Southbank in winter and joined the Liberal Democrats in August. He only found out about the council elections in early September.

He said he entered politics in response to the heavy policing of anti-lockdown protestors, specifically the widely-reported arrest of a pregnant Ballarat woman.

"It brought to the front of my mind some unpleasant experiences I had growing up in Russia, with political suppression and security forces enforcing an agenda on ordinary people," he said.

Following that, Mr Silverberg discovered the Liberal Democratic Party and joined. When he became aware of the elections, he volunteered to run.

Mr Silverberg, whose candidate Facebook page regularly described the state government's lockdown restriction as "tyrannical" and "irrational", said he was against the enforcement of the lockdown and an approach that used health as a benchmark and "forgot about all the other pieces".

Speaking in early November – while Victoria was experiencing a long period of zero daily COVID-19 cases and travel restrictions were being lifted – Mr Silverberg still maintained the restrictions had been misplaced.

If he had been elected as a councillor he said he would have focused on getting the city moving again, reducing government waste and promoting "diversity".

His prime example of waste was Southbank Boulevard.

"Southbank Boulevard is over time and over cost and this sort of waste that we see is the type of area I would look to optimise. The extra money could have been spent a lot better on things like the arts and helping people get back to work," he said.

According to the Liberal Democrats, Mr Silverberg's 80 vote shortfall was due to a preference deal not being honoured. Mr Silverberg declined to name the "group of individuals" who he said had not honoured the deal.

"I haven't given too much thought yet to whether I'd run again. It was a great experience and I've certainly learnt a lot from it," he said ●

▼ *Paul Silverberg.*



HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

Government needs to invest in housing now



Welcome to the fourth of our 12-part series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians, rich or poor.



This series intends to draw on a range of perspectives centred around housing and homelessness. We will hear a range of views from business, the not-for-profit sector and hopefully government, as to why they believe housing is an important social and economic building block for Australia's future prosperity.

This month we have asked Mark Feenane, executive officer, Victorian Public Tenants Association to share his thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians should be considered an economic imperative for Australia...

What is the economic cost compared to the financial or stimulus benefit of building more much-needed public housing?

Clearly there is a societal cost of not housing people as evidenced by the burgeoning number of homeless people in this country but is this less important than finding the money to house those most in need?

The KPMG evaluation of the post GFC housing stimulus was every \$1 spent generated \$1.30 return in the community. This is the financial win. If by housing more people, we can also save money on welfare referrals, prisons, or mental health costs etc. there is likely an additional financial benefit. However, its more than just the economic argument.

The real value proposition is that we need more public housing for what it delivers in human terms to the individuals it houses and for the community benefit generally.

Perhaps the most important infrastructure spend the government can engage in now and post the COVID-19 pandemic, is to invest in public housing and facilitate growth in social and affordable housing more generally. There is now a broad coalition calling for significant investment in social housing and this must be high on the list of government priorities as we navigate through these very difficult times.

It is imperative that any infrastructure expenditure adds true value to people's lives – we need to get the best bang for the money being invested. So, it must be about investing to generate outcomes now and for generations to come. Government investment in housing is not just about economic stimulus but for all that housing provides, and what it leads to as a platform for life.

This is an opportunity to set people up for success. This challenge to government requires true leadership and vision. Making life better for Australians must be the aim; party politics should not be the barrier. Balancing the competing priorities of government may be challenging but that is what we elect politicians to do. It is time for them to step up.

Government must be a conduit to helping people achieve their potential. Unfortunately, many people are missing out on the basics and lack the opportunity and resources to change

their situation. Housing is the main driver to the better more fulfilling life that everyone aspires to and provides a solid foundation for life and opens pathways to the future.

We all share some common needs - food, clothing, and shelter, without which you cannot really operate, engage, or participate at a higher level.

In Australia, most of us have access to adequate food and clothing, although situations and choices can sometimes impact on this. There are numerous agencies established to help bridge the gap by providing emergency relief and essentials for people experiencing tough times and financial hardship in the short term. Meeting the very significant cost to obtain or provide a safe and secure long-term home is a far more challenging ask.

The capital cost of housing, particularly in a market which wants and sees property prices increasing year on year, is seemingly prohibitive to government/s from a budgetary perspective. That is despite the accompanying bonus of increases in sales tax and stamp duties and the ability of government to borrow at record low interest rates.

Ensuring its citizens are adequately housed should be a not-negotiable and expected priority and measure of government.

Housing (shelter) is highly valued by Victorians based on a recent survey conducted by Essential Poll which showed that, regardless of whatever the demographic or political leaning, there was significant support across the board for increases in all forms of social and affordable housing. More than three-quarters of Victorians want the state government to "build significantly more public and community housing" as part of its response to COVID-19.

Everyone needs a place to call home - having safe, secure, and affordable housing is the prize of highest value and the greatest cost benefit by

any analysis. Housing is the major enabler of a valuable life.

The housing value proposition when framed in terms of human values, sits alongside notions of what is important to having a satisfying and rewarding life including health and wellbeing, safety and security, community participation and belonging, education and skills attainment, jobs and job security, personal validation and sense of identity, self-fulfilment, achieving potential etc, all leading to positive valuable life well spent. The list goes on.

What is the cost in human terms of not having safe, secure, and affordable housing for everyone? We need to get the balance and investment right. The prize awaits.

I hope you found the above perspective by Mark interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our own view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground. This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations. As I said in my first article, doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts.



Rob Pradolin

FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AT FRASERS PROPERTY AUSTRALIA AND FOUNDER OF HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS (HAA)

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ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



The Koorie Heritage Trust: An interview with Tom Mosby

The Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) was established in 1985. Over four decades, it has been through some major transformations.

WORDS BY Meg Hill

Tom Mosby, who became CEO of the KHT in 2012, spoke to *Docklands News* about its history and future.

“When I started in the role, we were located in King St, but it wasn’t an ideal location simply because we were right at the top of the street and didn’t get passing traffic,” Mr Mosby told *Southbank News*.

He said by the time he started it was clear KHT needed a more central location.

“The board made the decision to sell the building in King St and find new premises and at that time the Yarra building at Federation Square came up as a possibility.”

“There were other options – we discussed Fitzroy and maybe Docklands – but we very much wanted to be at the centre of the city.”

“It was a reflection that Aboriginal people and communities shouldn’t be on the fringe. We needed to be right in the centre – to show the importance of Aboriginal people to a metropolitan city like Melbourne.”

The new home launched in September 2015,

in time for the KHT’s 30th birthday.

Mr Mosby said he came to the role of CEO from a somewhat eclectic career background – in art and in law.

“I’m originally from the Torres Strait, I moved to Melbourne in 1989,” he said.

“My first job was actually as an arts conservator with the Art Gallery of Western Australia and I was offered a job after that in Melbourne.”

“I worked as an arts restorer and then went back to university and studied law. I practiced as a lawyer for about 10 years in Melbourne, moved to Brisbane for five years, and moved back to Melbourne when I took up the CEO role in 2012.”

It was one in a number of location changes for the Trust – which started in the Museum of Victoria when it was housed in the State Library building. The KHT another home-to-be burnt down in an arson attack.

Mr Mosby is now seeing the organisation through another major period of learning and changing.

When the KHT moved into the Yarra Building at Federation Square it took over two

floors of the building, which had its third floor occupied by the Melbourne Festival.

After a few years, Apple came looking for a home for a flagship Melbourne store.

“They had their eyes on the building that we’re in, so at one stage we were looking at moving across into the building where ACMI and SBS is, there was a floor we were looking at taking over,” Mr Mosby said.

“Obviously Apple’s move fell through, and the Melbourne Festival vacated their floor. This presented to us an opportunity to take over the entire building.”

“It was our big ambition – the Koorie Heritage Trust as its own stand-alone building, being the third cultural pillar at Federation Square, along with ACMI and the National Gallery of Victoria.”

And despite a year interrupted by a global pandemic, with the Trust closing its doors physically – Mr Mosby said that ambition was well on its way to fruition.

While working toward that goal the Trust also pivoted to online programming to remain engaged and relevant.

“The close-down happened while we had a major exhibition that we had scheduled, so we went ahead with it as a virtual exhibition,” Mr Mosby said.

“We also created Koorie Heritage Trust Online and a whole online program. An important part of it is Koorie Heritage Trust Voices.”

“Basically, when we closed down it became apparent to us very quickly that we were hearing the stories of the general community, the non-Indigenous community, and what was happening to them.”

“We said we needed to capture the Indigenous experience. It’s a very unique time in our global history, and if we don’t capture Indigenous stories during this time in 50 years’ time there won’t be any record of how they coped.” ●

You can visit the Trust online here: korieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/kht-online/

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Passive-aggressive behaviour

There is so much more to passive-aggressive behaviour than we usually see. Its roots can run deep and it can have grave consequences to relationships between family members, partners, and in the workplace.

Specific signs of passive-aggressive behaviour include opposition to the thoughts and ideas of other people, intentional mistakes in response to other people’s instructions, sullen or hostile attitude and frequent complaints about feelings of underappreciation.

There are five common identifiable “types” of passive-aggressive person:

1. Silent treatment: This involves remaining tight-lipped, turning a cold shoulder, or providing short, one word answers to others when the situation did not end in their favour.
2. Sulker: Much like when children do not get their way, sulkers do the same when a situation does not pan out how they would have liked, turning sad and bitter if they

do not get their way.

3. Forgetter: A forgetter may agree to help with a task or duty, but later claim they forgot to do it, or they procrastinate to the point where another individual has to take over, often having had no intention of helping in the first place.
4. Low-performer: Low-performers will carry out a task assigned to them, however often with little effort and disappointing, sloppy results.
5. Needler: In an attempt to undermine others and make them feel self-conscious, needlers use backhanded compliments or sarcasm and ambiguity as a form of passive aggressive communication.

Why does passive-aggressive behaviour happen?

There are a number of situational and environmental influences that could cause an individual to become passive-aggressive, this includes childhood and upbringing; individuals raised in an environment where expression of emotions was frowned upon or discouraged may lead to the thought that expression of emotions in an open setting is not allowed. Further, situations where displays of aggression are not considered socially acceptable may lead to the inclination to respond in a passive way when feelings of anger and frustration arise.

Lastly, for some people, being assertive and emotionally “on display” is not easy, with the easier route for dealing with emotions being passive aggression, where there is no need to confront the source of anger or frustration.

How to change passive-aggressive behaviour

If you believe you are exhibiting passive-aggressive behaviour, firstly work on improving your self-awareness; passive-aggressive behaviour can appear when you do not understand how you are feeling towards different people and situations.

Once you are self-aware of your emotions you can then begin to identify possible reasons or triggers. You may then want to practice expressing yourself in more appropriate ways. Start by practicing expressing yourself assertively with friends, family and people you trust.

If you are experiencing a passive-aggressive individual there are also a number of steps you can take to address their behaviour in a suitable manner. Firstly, know the signs to look out for, and then (if you’re able to), express how you are feeling in the moment. For example, if a passive-aggressive friend is always late, tell them that you would appreciate them being on time and why. Finally, be open and inclusive in your communication. They are likely to be averse to confronting conversations so encourage a two-way conversation which includes open dialogue and positive feedback ●



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HISTORY

Southbank and the Olympic Games

2020 was supposed to be an Olympic year, due to be held in Tokyo – but the COVID-19 virus forced the games to be deferred. Tokyo had also been scheduled to hold the 1940 Games but WWII put an end to it.

In 1949, Melbourne won the right to hold the 1956 Games, the first to be held in the Southern Hemisphere. It was a close call and the awarding of the games led to years of political in-fighting and disputes in Melbourne.

Where would the main events be held? The Showgrounds? Albert Park? Princes Park in Carlton? Eventually the MCG (which was always the obvious choice) was selected.

It was a similar story with the swimming and diving pool. The original choice was in Fawkner Park in South Yarra but a backlash from local residents forced a move to Swan St, just across the river from Southbank.

People in Melbourne embraced the Games with a passion and visitors who made the long trip were thrilled with the friendliness of the Australian people. The city was transformed, with an Olympic Village at West Heidelberg, new sports venues (such as Olympic Park, next to the pool), an upgraded airport at Essendon, and upgraded hotels such as Hosies on Flinders St.

In the lead-up to the Games, the people of Melbourne entering the city could not help being taken by a series of pylons and structures placed on major intersections. Designed by members of a panel of leading architects, engineers and industrial designers, they represented the latest in innovative design, materials and technology and some incorporated motifs from indigenous culture.

The striking structures brought colour and brightness to corners of Melbourne, as authorities sought to bring a terrific spectacle

of twinkling lights and colourful flags and decorations to the city. For those living in South Melbourne, they passed a large steel-framed torch, nearly 20 metres high, on the corner of Swanston and Flinders streets.

Held in place by cables attached to posts and buildings, it comprised a web-like construction, topped by a metre-high ring of fire, lit by gas pumped into the framework, and lit by floodlights at night.

Nearby, the corner of Alexandra Avenue and St Kilda Rd was brightened by a number of large Spinnobiles, designed by Richard Beck. Standing about 15 metres high, and anchored into concrete, the two tubular steel structures (painted in high gloss enamel in Olympic colours) were anchored in concrete and revolved on ball bearings and twisted in the wind, producing a kaleidoscopic effect.

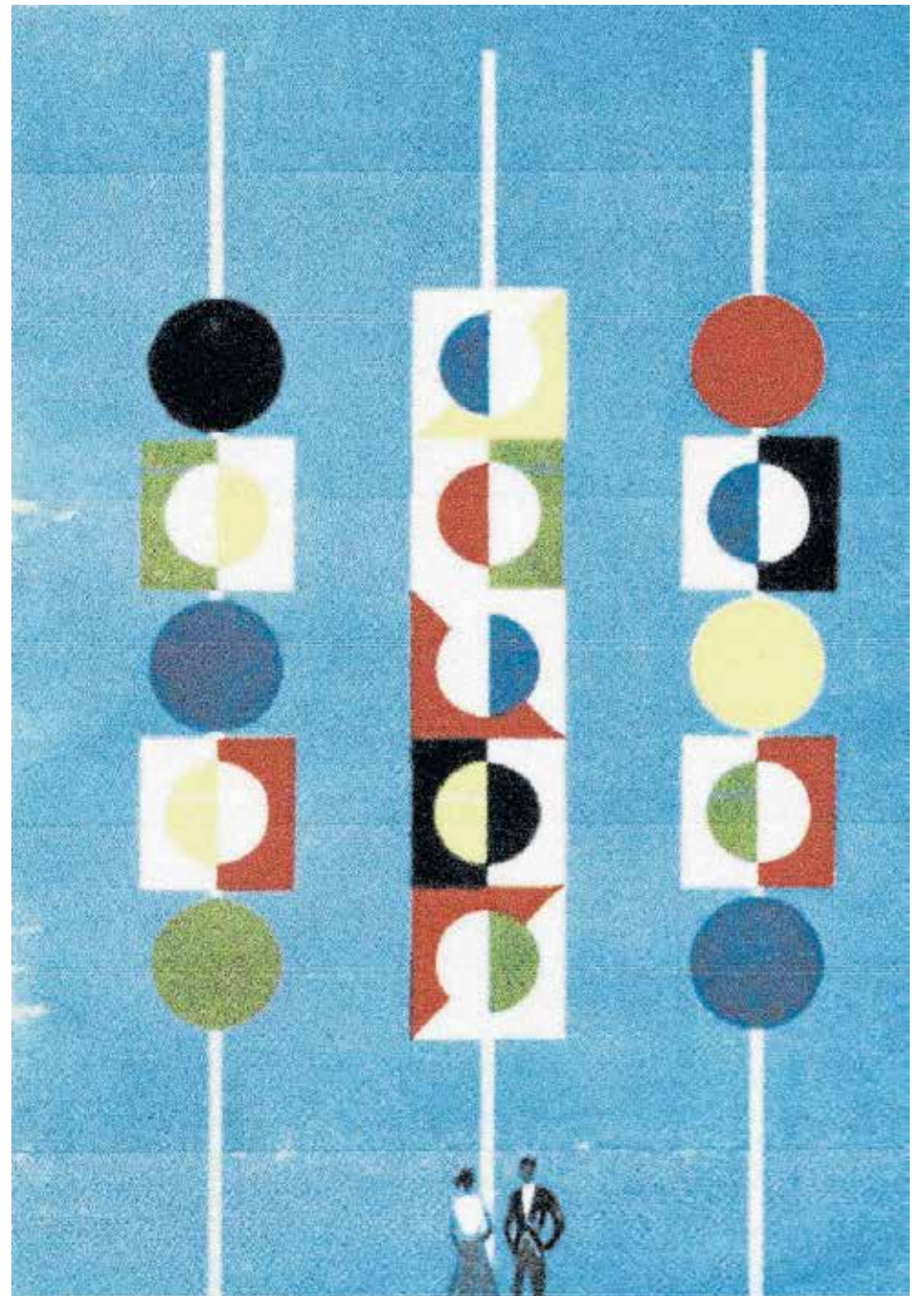
For the City of Melbourne, it was a great introduction to a wonderful Games, long regarded as the “Friendly Games” ●



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WE LIVE HERE

Short-stays exploit family violence loophole

In a new low for a controversial industry, short-stay guests have claimed to be victims of family violence to get around the Stage 3 and 4 bans on Airbnb and similar services.

In banning short-term letting platforms from providing holiday accommodation, the DHHS included a “List of Permitted Operations” that perhaps, unwittingly, provided a loophole for diehard short-stay operators, viz:

- There were no guidelines as to how these services could be accessed in private residential buildings, or
- no information on where the people requiring accommodation could go for assistance.

Only one of the nine permitted operations – people returning to their own home – was directly applicable to residential strata buildings.

The other permitted operations including essential services, family violence, homelessness, etc. would have required an agency or some other body to facilitate it.

The short-stay industry in Victoria has been almost eliminated by the COVID-19 pandemic, firstly by the absence of tourists and now the legal ban.

However, a few intractable operators are trying to keep operating for guests armed with fake stories. One such fake story relating to family violence was reported to “We Live Here”.

Making a false claim to be a victim of family violence is much more than an affront to other residents; it shows egregious disrespect to genuine victims of family violence.

This new short-stay scam is truly disgraceful.

Isolated party apartments despite legal ban

The one issue that the police have been responding to during the Stage 3 and 4 restrictions have been parties and conducting drug raids.

Guests have been evicted, charged and fined. We have not heard of any owners of the relevant apartments being charged – they should have been.

Other reports of strangers in buildings, avoiding reception, gaining access via carparks, etc. have been all too common.

There is no official record of the person or reason for being there – and what would happen in an emergency?

Calls and emails to the COVID-19 hotline for advice have mostly gone nowhere.

Paying attention to parties and drug busts is not enough. There is a ban on short stays and the authorities are not responding to calls to enforce the law.

Stage 4 lockdown

Additional restrictions and guidelines issued for multi-dwelling properties with shared facilities include the following directive:

“Holiday visitors are currently not permitted in Victoria. This includes short-stay accommodation. Victoria Police are conducting routine enforcement of restrictions and can issue on the spot fines of up to \$1652 for individuals.”

Also included in the guidelines is a mandate for COVIDSafe plans to be implemented:

1. Development of COVIDSafe plans
2. Restricting access to communal areas

3. Safety and hygiene measures for open and communal areas and facilities.

4. Use of face coverings

5. Four sqm rule

6. Notification of positive cases

If implemented accordingly it now creates another reason why apartments in residential buildings should not be used for any other purpose than to accommodate permanent residents:

It is simply that the modus operandi of short-term letting is totally at odds with maintaining a COVIDSafe building. It actually creates a potential health hazard.

Frustrated residents have reported illegal short-stay activity to the COVID-19 Hotline, also to Victoria Police via their hotline and in person. The stock reply, if there has been any response at all, was, “we have no authority to act”.

How many times have we heard that over the past few weeks! Have DHHS and Victoria Police trained its operators to read off the same script?

It’s clear that short-stays in apartment buildings operate quite differently compared with those in free standing holiday-let properties. It’s an important difference the government needs to understand.

How has your building responded to COVID?

With no help from the COVID-19 hotline or the police, residents are telling us that the task has been left to the strata manager.

How has your building fared? The Stage 4 lockdown has shown up:

- the good – managers working in harmony with the OC and residents, and taking it in their stride;
- the indecisive – managers changing their mind from supporting the OC to being unsure what to do next; and
- the bad – managers totally ignoring the concerns of residents.

Despite some glitches, our buildings are now generally cleaner, safer, more secure than most us can ever remember.

After the restrictions?

Unfortunately, there is currently no law in Victoria that prevents short-stays in residential buildings once the restrictions are lifted.

Buildings need to prepare now for how to deal with short-stays in a post-lockdown era.

Your COVIDSafe plan must have specific rules for registering short-stay guests and the six mandatory requirements shown above.

In the coming months we will keep you posted on how you can manage the post-lockdown recovery phase with more information in this column and at our website ●

Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET



BUSINESS



Retailers announced at Melbourne Square

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

In what will be music to the ears of many locals, Southbank will welcome its first full-line supermarket with the opening of Woolworths at Melbourne Square on December 10.

Following a series of tenant signings at the award-winning Melbourne Square precinct, Woolworths Southbank will be joined by a number of food and retailers due to open mid-December.

Developer OSK Property has confirmed all available tenancies have been filled at the \$2.8 billion project, which will include a new real estate office spanning a total of 6250 sqm across the podium level of the precinct.

OSK Property's sales and marketing director Scott Jessop said the businesses would add another layer to Southbank's diverse restaurant mix, giving plenty of choice to Melbourne Square residents and workers, future Hilton Hotel guests, as well as the broader Southbank community.

"By early next year, Melbourne Square will be a vibrant and bustling area of our city. We are in the final stages of construction of stage one, which delivers an integrated lifestyle precinct to Southbank," Mr Jessop said.

"These retailers will be located on the podium above our public park and will elevate the precinct experience for our residents and visitors. It won't be long until we have people grabbing a coffee or sandwich to enjoy in the park – sprawled on the grass in the sun."

He said the retail mix is designed to cater for residents and local workers, providing a range of quick café style eats along with a new office for MSQ Property.

"Melbourne Square is underpinned by a lot of strong retail fundamentals – not just the foot traffic from the residents in the development, but also the population across Southbank and the eventual office workers who will work in the precinct," Mr Jessop said.

"Southbank has been underserved in a lot of regards, and the retail market has been quick to recognise this and capitalise on the opportunity at Melbourne Square."

Retailers confirmed at the precinct include:

- Espresso Bar International, a premium baked pastries and barista-made coffeehouse overlooking the newly-unveiled Kavanagh St park;
- Pizza Pantelleria, specialising in woodfire

pizza and fresh pasta;

- Aqua Fish and Chips, serving up deliciously fried and grilled seafood along with other Australian classics;
- Golden Bunny by Tho Tho, the third iteration of the much-loved Southeast Asian institution which first opened their doors on Victoria St in 1989; and
- Alleyway Kitchen, an authentic Chinese eatery known for its flavour-packed value for money menu options and broad spice spectrum suitable for all tastebuds.

Accompanying the two-level 4300 sqm Woolworths and the broad range of eateries will be Southbank's only BWS liquor store.

Woolworths Melbourne Square's new store manager Ragu Jeyachandran said, "we're pleased to be able to offer a beautiful new store at Melbourne Square for our apartment residents and local customers that will make grocery shopping easy and more convenient". "Being part of the local landscape is very important to us. We have been able to create nearly 100 new jobs and we are also looking forward to supporting a number of community groups in the area over the coming months". With two levels of the latest in retail concepts and features, including convenient "Scan&Go"

technology, Mr Jeyachandran said the Woolworths store team was looking forward to providing Southbank locals with this new and exciting supermarket offering.

The "Scan&Go" service allows customers to scan items with their phone as they shop and then pay for them in-app, at the dedicated "Scan&Go" checkouts. Among other key features at Woolworths Melbourne Square, customers can expect a full production bakery, sushi counter and an in-store meat specialist to help decide on cuts of meats and how to prepare, cook and serve a delicious meal. The bakery will feature artisanal bread loaves and a new range of premium stone-baked breads and made to order cakes for any special occasion. The new store will also offer a range of fish and seafood, perfect for a family feast. All fresh fish can be paired with the new and free "Bag and Bake" offering which has a number of marinade options ●

For more information visit:
melbournesquare.com.au

SAFETY & SECURITY

Police Station back open!

Finally, after months of being closed, I am very pleased to announce that Southbank Police Station is open to the public again.

With no restrictions on leaving your home under the Chief Health Officer's directions, we are now able to have face-to-face contacts within Southbank Police Station.

When entering the station, you must continue to adhere to the directions by wearing a mask and social distancing. The reception counter was previously closed as part of changes to our service delivery model to stop unnecessary face-to-face contacts and risk of transmission in line with the Chief Health Officer directions at the time.

I encourage locals to continue contacting the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or using online reporting for non-urgent matters. In an emergency, contact Triple Zero (000).

Short-term rentals

Southbank has a high proportion of apartments in multi-story buildings. These buildings tend to have a mix of residents and short-term rentals such as Airbnb. Victoria Police has been responding to reported COVID breaches of parties being held in short term rentals during the pandemic. If you are concerned that a short-term rental in your building is being used to host a party with numbers of people present breaching the Chief Health Officer's guidelines, then call 000 to report it. Police will attend and issue penalty notices if offences are being committed.

Theft from motor vehicles

Theft from motor vehicles continues to be an ongoing issue in the Southbank area. A timely reminder from Victoria Police to remember to avoid being a victim of crime – remove valuables from your vehicles. Thefts often occur due to valuables being left in plain sight or vehicles being left unlocked. Remember to lock

your vehicle even when your car is parked in a secure carpark. It is important not to present an easy opportunity to thieves. An issue specific to Southbank residents is preventing tailgating through residential carpark entries. This is often the way thieves enter carparks to steal from vehicles or storage cages. Take the time to allow the roller door to close after your car has either entered or left the carpark. This ensures that your carparks remain secure. Ensure any lost fobs are cancelled straight away. These small steps all make a difference to your safety and that of your fellow residents.

Personal safety on footpaths/walkways

With COVID restrictions easing more people are returning to Melbourne's CBD for work and pleasure. The footpaths will become increasingly congested and are shared between pedestrians, cyclists and other wheeled recreational devices.

Being distracted can increase your chances of being a victim of crime or being involved in an accident. It is very important to stay alert when walking and avoid using your mobile phone and wearing earbuds – especially at night. If you have enjoyed a few too many drinks perhaps consider getting a taxi or ride-share home instead of walking to ensure you arrive safely.

Remember – head up, phone down.

As always, if you have any questions you can reach Southbank Police using the following email address – SOUTHBANK-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au ●



Senior Sgt Alex O'Toole

STATION COMMANDER AT SOUTHBANK POLICE STATION

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OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Dust continues to settle on the *Owners' Corporation Act (2019)* reforms

Hurrah! We are able to leave our apartments at last, and go out and have some fun. But seriously, Consumer Affairs Victoria, you all should perhaps stay inside and complete your work.

It is truly astounding that the *Owners' Corporation Amendment Bill (2019)* still has not been enacted.

It sailed through the Lower House Legislative Assembly, and got as far as the Second Reading speech in the Upper House Legislative Council on February 20, 2020 via Adem Somyurek, and there it has been stuck in limbo ever since.

Remember, some of these reforms were ready to be enacted as far back as 2014, and the Bill was substantially complete at the end of 2016.

With the number of persons living in strata in Melbourne now over the one-million mark, and with the value of strata buildings in Australia worth in the trillions of dollars, there is a great need for robust, up-to-date legislation that takes account of the complexities and frustrations of living and working in a strata titled building.

However, the Consumer Affairs Victoria web page (updated on May 22, 2020) still says that "the Bill should be introduced into Parliament later in 2019."

There are many key reforms that the owners' corporation (OC) has desperately needed to be introduced within the last four years in particular. Countless harms are being transacted upon the community, while parliament and Consumer Affairs Victoria dithers.

Reforms such as: introducing stricter regulatory reporting requirements for OCs with more than 50 lots, prohibiting a developer from selling lots in a building where the budget for the annual fees is obviously wrong, permitting an OC to bring legal proceedings

against wrongdoers without needing to pass a special resolution, enshrining the "benefit" principle for extraordinary fees where only one or some lot owners will benefit from work that needs to be done to common property, prohibiting an OC manager from having a contract greater than three years, requiring a developer to disclose all relationships with any service providers that they appoint before they register an OC, a restriction on how many proxies a person may hold at a general meeting. The list goes on.

These are important reforms. They will allow Victoria to "catch up" with the strata laws in other states and territories, as well as to keep up with community expectations.

The longer the government continues to drag its feet, the more that the community will start to think that something more sinister is at play. Why delay reforms that will only benefit owners of apartments, unless there is money to be made by those that build those apartments?

My request to the newly-minted Minister of Consumer Affairs? Nip down to Parliament's next sitting with a memo to request this legislation gets passed pronto ... ●



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And the beat goes on ... (or the construction)

At last we can mingle and dine, albeit socially distanced and masked ... but how wonderful to be out and about.

We should all be so proud of ourselves in Montague and Southbank for the care we have taken to look after ourselves and our neighbours and the community at large – thank you everyone.

As part of ensuring the rapid return of our state's economy and as mentioned in last month's column, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne has fast-tracked a number of key developments in the Montague Precinct. These are significantly large developments, with multiple towers of 40 storeys, some of which have begun, and some are about to start.

These constructions look great on paper, with terrific designs, cool apartments and great views. And the developers seem to be compliant and say all the right things to the governing bodies.

They offer incentives to the local government, and in their marketing to purchasers, on how these developments will provide excellence in amenity and liveability for those coming to live in Montague. YAY!!! But what is missing in this utopian image?

It is what happens to those who are already living and working in the neighbourhood.

We started our fabulous group seven years ago, because of this very issue. And we wonder all these years later, why the incumbent community is still being ignored ... we still have no Neighbourhood Agreements after all these years.

“

They offer incentives to the local government, and in their marketing to purchasers, on how these developments will provide excellence in amenity and liveability for those coming to live in Montague. YAY!!! But what is missing in this utopian image?

”

There are some very interesting-looking apartments that you might have noticed above the storage facility on the corner of Montague St and Normanby Rd. This is Montague Towers and it is, unfortunately, its residents' turn to experience what those of us in Gladstone St, Thistlethwaite St and Boundary Rd have for some years – i.e. houses shaking, trucks blocking access to our homes and carparks and NOISE that seems not to be bound by any bylaws.

It is awful when you experience these things for the first time, which tends to make one do what would seem logical, which is to contact the powers that be, local and other governments. But when one does, you discover that there is no interest in assisting because construction and the economy trump all else. Which is why having a representative community group, like the Montague Community Alliance is so important.

Through our hard work and tenacity, we have created relationships with key Montague stakeholders, and we have been able to secure a meeting with the appropriate people and the Montague Towers residents, which we hope will lead to some positive outcomes for everyone concerned.

The best and only way we have found to counteract the shock of finding a 40-storey tower being built next to you and not finding anyone to help is for state and local governments to implement a Neighbourhood Agreement with every planning permit. These agreements would ensure communication

about schedules, appropriate on-site contact people and not undertaking work out of hours or heavy noise work on weekends. It is not hard; I have personally negotiated directly with the developers myself.

An office with a community liaison person from the Fishermans Bend Taskforce should also be established in the precinct to respond to the community in real time.

All of the above has been spoken about for several years, all initiated by us, all with promises for action to occur and guess what ... nothing has happened ...

C'mon folks! Let's move forward with a little more engagement, energy and thoughtfulness. The Montague community deserves it, it will make everyone, including the developers and builder's lives better and provide a template for future proofing the way the Montague community and Fishermans Bend live well for the next iteration of development.

Thank you for your attention to this column and as usual if you have any comments or ideas for us, please contact us through our Facebook Page. @MontaguePrecinct or our Twitter Feed @MontComAlliance ●



Trisha Avery

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ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

The asterisk

Earlier in the year, it was suggested that due to COVID, the 2020 AFL Premiership would forever have an asterisk over it.

Meaning that in the panorama of Aussie rules history, the victors would never really be considered triumphant over the best competitors under the fairest conditions.

For a little while, with the interstate hubs and their creation of a different kind of home ground advantage, it seemed that would be the case. Finally, when Port Adelaide and Brisbane finished atop the home and away ladder, some long-suffering Victorian fans, footy-starved and lockdown-loaded, may well have cried, “rigged!” like Donald Trump on election day.

But when Richmond and Geelong faced off in the Grand Final at the Gabba (may the good Lord return it to its rightful home in 2021!), all was forgiven, the asterisk was erased, and if anything, the best team was seen to have won in the face of adversity the likes of which have rarely, if ever, been known in football.

No, 2020 will not be remembered as a basket case of a season. The mighty Tigers and the incomparable Dustin Martin will be spoken of like mythical heroes by tragics sipping beers for many decades to come.

Have you put an asterisk over your 2020? If so, when did you do it? Was it in lockdown one? Or did that come and go quick enough that you

thought you'd be able to salvage things? Was it during lockdown two – did you write it off then? Or did you find a way to believe that your year need not be appendaged with parentheses, caveats or your diary dolloped with glops of white-out? I hope so.

Christians are sometimes imagined as people piously ponderous of the great beyond, and as such being those who, consciously or unconsciously, seek to get their name (without any asterisk) on the doorman's entry-list. That may be a fair description of some faithful folk, but there is a good case to be made for the Christian disposition being one that accepts that the goodness of eternity has been inaugurated already – and that, as we trust in Jesus, we are experiencing it now! Call it a philosophy, call it living a faithful life, call it what you will, but I would say that the Christian scriptures call their readers to see life – all of it – as a gift.

If one is able to receive and embrace the life-gift without devaluing it by noting exceptional circumstances or granting permission to strike things from the record, then there is always beauty to be found. Christians sometimes call this the Way of the Cross. The cross was, of course, an ugly thing – an instrument of torture

– but when you see it now, hanging as a piece of jewellery around someone's neck, chances are it represents the hope that life and love finally prevail over suffering and death, even as the historical reality of the suffering remains.

2020 isn't over yet. If you've already put an asterisk over it, there's still revision time left. Life, even pandemic-life, can be a blessing – yes, even when it is touched by tragedy. May you find the framing to fix your year's canvas within the bounds of blessing, so that it can be proudly placed on your mind's mantle piece. It belongs there, because it's already been hung in your very own hall inside God's gallery ●



Tom Hoffmann

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Search for the **St Johns Southgate** channel on **YouTube** for our 10am Sunday morning live streams

Connect with us on **Facebook** during these challenging times

Stay safe and well and may **God bless you!**



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Southgate

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METRO TUNNEL

▼ Professor Sharon Lewin delivers the blessing of TBM Joan at Parkville.



Metro Tunnel mega machine sets course for State Library

Work has started on the latest section of the Metro Tunnel – a one-kilometre stretch from Parkville to the new State Library Station at the northern end of Swanston St.

Tunnel boring machines (TBM) *Joan* and *Meg* have been relaunched to begin their journey into the heart of Melbourne's CBD. The new metro-style line features five underground stations and will connect the Sunbury line to the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines with two nine km-long tunnels.

TBM *Joan* – named after Victoria's first female premier, Joan Kirner – was the first TBM launched, in September 2019, and TBM *Meg* – named after Australian women's cricket captain Meg Lanning – the second to launch in October 2019.

Since then, the pair has completed:

- The western section of the Metro Tunnel from the tunnel entrance in Kensington to the new Arden Station in North Melbourne; and
- The Arden to Parkville section, connecting Victoria's world-renowned medical, research and education precinct.

Once TBMs *Joan* and *Meg* break through at State Library, they will continue digging under Swanston St to link up with Town Hall Station.

Before their relaunch from Parkville, the TBMs were given a traditional blessing in honour of St Barbara, the patron saint of

tunnelling. Professor Sharon Lewin of the Peter Doherty Institute was invited to carry out the blessings of both TBMs.

Parkville Station is fast taking shape with work on the station entrances and permanent station structures underground, which commuters will see in 2025, well underway.

The third and fourth TBMs, *Millie* and *Alice* (named after Victoria's first female MP Millie Peacock and wartime medical hero Alice Appleford), recently completed the 1.7km stretch from Anzac Station to the eastern tunnel entrance at South Yarra.

They are being returned to the Anzac Station site and reassembled before starting tunnelling towards Town Hall Station later this year.

The TBMs have installed more than 31,000 concrete segments to form the rings lining the new tunnels and excavated more than 371,000 cubic metres of rock and soil.

Construction on the Metro Tunnel Project has continued throughout COVID-19 restrictions, with workers adhering to strict safety measures in line with the Victorian Government's advice.

The Metro Tunnel Project will create additional capacity for more than half a million passengers a week during peak periods and transform the way Victorians travel around Melbourne ●

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Ending the year on a brighter note

We enter November on a positive note with COVID-19, with the first week being zero new cases and zero deaths.

This great result is now allowing for an easing of restrictions which has started to bring some life back to Southbank. It is promising to also see our building's gyms and swimming pools reopening.

Well done to our community for their efforts. Living in a high-rise environment presents challenges many others don't endure. Let's hope this will last.

We have a new council and what a mixed make-up it is. Last month, Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) held an online "Meet the Candidates" event to assist our community with their efforts to work out what the leadership teams and Southbank resident candidates stood for in hope it would assist with deciding who to vote for. By all accounts from the post-event feedback, we concluded it was a resounding success.

There were nearly 200 registrations with a peak of around 120 online at one time. I tried my best to ask the hard-hitting questions and hold the candidates to account for their responses. It wasn't an easy feat for some candidates and I felt they might have come a little under-prepared. It was certainly different to the format of the other community forums they had participated in which might have got them a little off-guard. It seems the concept of attending events from the comfort of our homes has been embraced by our community, so we have decided to try to find other opportunities to hold more of these type of events – watch this space.

Congratulations to Sally Capp for her success in securing the Lord Mayorship, ultimately winning 53 per cent of the vote after preferences but was significantly ahead after first preferences anyhow. Sally Capp's previous deputy, Arron Wood, was a relatively close second, but The Greens were only around 1300 votes from taking the second position after preferences. However, The Greens were certainly second based on primary votes.

The days of a large or majority voting bloc seem to now be behind us, although Sally's team will have four of the 11 councillors and The Greens two, with the remaining being individual candidates from across five other teams. Fortunately, council has retained some experience as five of the 11 councillors have served on the previous council. Sadly, there are still a number of councillors that don't live in the municipality and once again none from Southbank. Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) will be looking forward to reaching out to all the new councillors to remind them that Southbank is part of the municipality and the second largest revenue contributor to council budget, therefore we hope for their concern and attention for Southbank's ongoing issues.

Well done to our community for their efforts. Living in a high-rise environment presents challenges many others don't endure. Let's hope this will last.



To all the unsuccessful candidates. Thank you for your participation in our local democracy and bringing to light a number of issues throughout our municipality. I send a special commiseration to Artemis Pattichi and her effort for election. Artemis would have been a great voice for Southbank. Hopefully her work with the Southbank Sustainability Group that she co-founded will continue. Artemis is doing great things in that space.

SRA is your local community lobbying voice. Our committee is made up of local volunteers who are passionate about Southbank. However, without the support of members, our voice is merely a whisper. If you would like to support our good work, we encourage you to join via our website southbankresidents.org.au and follow us on Facebook – **Southbank Residents** ●

For more information:
southbankresidents.org.au



Tony Penna
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@
SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



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Little La Trobe St
La Trobe St
Footpath closure
Melbourne Central Shopping Centre



PAUL
Paul works at the Arts Centre Melbourne. He bought his mask from a dressmaker shop on Barkly St, St Kilda. He likes it being light and hopes it'll still keep him comfortable in the summer coming up.



DANIEL
Daniel bought his mask from an online shop, Etsy. His evident love for Marvel comics compensates any discomfort that arises from the sense of feeling obligated to wear a mask. He works as a nurse and disability support worker and loves to play video games.

Masks of Southbank

Photos by John Tadigiri.



SIMON
Simon, got his mask from a local shop in Bairnsdale, Victoria. He works as a horse breeder to make a living and said like most others these days, he just watches Netflix and chats with close friends to keep himself entertained.



MAE
Mae, as you would also guess if you see her in person, made her own mask. She said wearing it made her happy, calmer, more confident and less anxious. She is currently studying to be good at creative writing and during her free time, she paints and makes art.



Coffee Break

Victorian College of the Arts

Southbank Sudoku

Last month's Sudoku solution

N	K	T	S	B	H	U	O	A
B	S	H	U	A	O	N	T	K
A	U	O	T	K	N	B	H	S
S	O	A	B	H	K	T	U	N
K	N	B	A	T	U	O	S	H
H	T	U	N	O	S	A	K	B
T	H	S	O	N	B	K	A	U
O	B	K	H	U	A	S	N	T
U	A	N	K	S	T	H	B	O

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters SOUTH BANK replacing numbers.

The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line must contain the letters "SOUTH BANK" as must each 9-square box. This Sudoku is VERY HARD, good luck!

	B	H		A				
	U	S					K	T
					T		A	H
		A		O				
K			B		A			O
				N		K		
B	K		T					
H	S					T	U	
				B		H	O	

Full speed ahead

Now that we can meet again, there are so many activities our group has been waiting to bring to Southbank, so we are coming back full speed ahead!

Watch this space for upcoming educational workshops on sustainable solutions, Southbank's first ever community composting hub and workshops on composting, along with many other smaller activities our group always puts together for our meetups.

We were all so very excited to have our first meetup again on Saturday, November 7! One of the things many of us missed while in lockdown is meeting with neighbours and gardening side by side (1.5 metres apart, of course). Even though we had to restrict numbers to 10 participants max to adhere to state restrictions, we all enjoyed seeing friends and neighbours again. We'll be able to have more people join us as restrictions ease and we'll continue using Eventbrite for participants to register for a while. Join our group or keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming meetups and registration links. As a reminder, we meet fortnightly on Saturdays, 10am at Boyd.

Our next meetup will be on Saturday, November 21 and, apart from gardening, we'll be painting more stones green, yellow, and red for the garden's harvesting signage. We'll be breaking into two teams, one to garden and one to get creative painting stones. It seems some of you liked the stones we've already painted a little too much, seeing how many of them have disappeared from the vegie garden over time.

While we appreciate people loving the end



result so much, we encourage taking photos of the stones you like instead of taking them home, as a lot of work and effort goes into upkeeping the garden and our community harvesting system doesn't work without the stones. You are also welcome to come along the next meetup and paint your own stone to take home with you.

There are also many ways to get involved with the group outside of gardening. While you will see more and more creative sustainability activities to get involved in. We're immediately starting up educational workshops for the wider community and the work on putting together educational material for the upcoming community composting hub. If you are interested in composting or want to learn more about it while helping deliver an important community project, you are welcome to send us an email and volunteer. We'll soon be putting an action team together for the composting hub so this is the perfect time to get involved. Composting in our high-rise dominated neighbourhood is a big challenge, so the sooner we can create a composting option for Southbankers, the sooner we

can start reducing the very harmful methane gasses emitted by food scraps sent to landfill.

Speaking of composting, we've been finding more and more food waste dumped on the two test concrete tubs we have for composting, which are meant to be used by group members only. These tubs are already full as you will see from the "no more composting" signs and the pea straw covering them. We found whole lettuce heads and other food waste unsuitable for composting on top of the pea straws recently, and it all ended up in a plastic bag and the waste bin, sadly. While we genuinely appreciate the intention to reduce your environmental footprint, ignoring our instructions is causing more harm than good so please refrain from bringing down any more food scraps until the composting hub is up and running.

Finally, remember to tune in to Keep Victoria Beautiful's YouTube page (search: "KVB Sustainable Cities Awards") on Thursday, November 12 at 8pm, to watch the virtual 2020 Sustainable Cities Awards Ceremony, where we might be named a winner for the environment award, bringing another victory to Southbank!

About the group:

A solutions-focused group of Southbank residents working to bring positive change in sustainability practices and education to our neighborhood, while building a wonderful community of like-minded people. 2019 Environment Melbourne Award winner ●

Reach us at:

southbanksustainability@gmail.com or [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup)



Artemis Pattichi
SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP
SOUTHBANKSUSTAINABILITY@GMAIL.COM

SKYPAD LIVING

Skilling owners' corporations

It was precisely six years ago in the 2014 November edition of Docklands News that an article appeared on "Owners' corporation groups sprouting". Three new groups were identified as supporting the particular needs of Victorian owners' corporations (OCs).

First listed was Owners' Corporation Network Victoria (OCNV), which was headed by the then Docklands Community Association president Roger Gardner. This group was said to be modelled on similar interstate bodies and had a stated aim of connecting with these to develop a national network for Australian OCs.

The second group listed was the Metropolitan Owners Corporation Committee Association (MOCCA), which had Helina Marshall as group coordinator. The aim of MOCCA was to allow OCs to share information and knowledge, and to learn from each other. And at that time, they had 11 buildings involved.

The third group listed was the Chairman's Council, a network of OC chairs from buildings managed by the strata management group, The Knight Alliance. The idea for this came from a "Chairman's Supper", attended by chairs from within The Knight Alliance's property portfolio.

Coming to the present day, November 2020, none of these groups appear active.

Indeed, within the City of Melbourne, the Southbank Owners' Corporations Network (SOCN) appears a rare example of an active group supporting OCs – meeting every two months to discuss issues relevant to strata living in Southbank.

This said, it is also noted that there are active advocacy groups, such as We Live Here, which lobby on behalf of the high-rise living sector on issues affecting liveability, such as short stays.

But what is still missing from our sector are dedicated resources and services needed

Indeed, within the City of Melbourne, the Southbank Owners' Corporations Network (SOCN) appears a rare example of an active group supporting OCs – meeting every two months to discuss issues relevant to strata living in Southbank.



to assist OCs perform their legal duties. And support is indeed needed as OCs are comprised of volunteers who are responsible for managing the common property of residential buildings. In the City of Melbourne, this means they are responsible for managing assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars and are responsible for ensuring the conduct of required maintenance, proper financial management and adherence to all associated regulations. Furthermore, the manner in which these duties are performed will directly affect the wellbeing of hundreds of residents and associated investors.

Now compare this level of OC responsibility to directors of community organisations (noting that the operating budgets of our OCs may far outstrip those of many community organisations). Despite this, directors of community organisations can access a suite of support tools and resources tailored to their needs. For instance, the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA) provides dedicated training, information, tools, events, qualifications and credentials specifically designed for the needs of this sector.

However, no comparable support is available to our OCs. This has meant that, typically, committee members "learn on the job", often taking their lead from others (who also have not received relevant training). The implications of this are that our strata buildings are the responsibility of volunteers who have no access to relevant training or support.

To redress the current situation, one possibility is to setup a Victorian OCN, similar to

that which operates in NSW. This group offers knowledge sharing and access to specialised resources such as webinars. They also advocate on behalf of their sector which might go some way to explaining why the NSW state government has a greater focus upon residential strata than does our Victorian state government. For example, the NSW Government is currently developing sector offerings like their "Strata Portal" – an online register to collect information from strata schemes across NSW. According to NSW Minister Dominello, "As a Government we want to make things easier for people who live in strata. By unlocking basic strata information, I believe we can help owners, tenants and prospective purchasers to make more informed decisions".

However, even NSW does not – yet – offer that calibre of OC training believed needed by our OCs.

With the new City of Melbourne Council soon to be known, perhaps this is an area where it can take a lead – and make residential living a council priority! ●



Dr. Janette Corcoran
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT
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河滨公园大受欢迎 开发项目仍存忧虑

David Schout

新建30层的Riverside Quay开发项目包括在Southbank河滨长廊沿岸修建一个大型公园，但是Eureka大厦的居民对该项目带来的日照阴影表示担忧。

墨尔本市议员批准了位于Riverside Quay 12号的ExxonMobil 故居上进行一个120米的商业开发项目，其中包括1000平方米的绿色空间，可以一览雅拉河和中央商务区的美景。

澳门亿万富翁吕强光(Keong Kuong Loi)于2016年购买了这块地，此项目的规划还包括改善该场地边缘的步行连接，市政规划主管尼古拉斯·里斯(Nicholas Reece)表示，“这个步行连接特别受欢迎”。

但是邻近的一些Eureka大厦居民对该开发项目带来的日照阴影表示担忧，该项目建

筑将后置约20米。

许多受影响的居民向市政表达了他们的担忧，而代表Eureka大厦物业管理的律师表示，有关日照阴影的证据不足。

里斯表示，对于开发商缺乏与当地居民的协商，尽管在这个项目中没有要求开发商这样做，“但我作为一名市议员，感到有些遗憾”。

不过他认为，在这个地块上的总体规划将有利于当地社区。

他在10月13日的未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)会议上说：“不是每天，甚至每年都会1000平方米的新公共开放空间摆在我们议员面前，当然更不会是在价值超过2500万澳元的土地上建造这个公共空间。”

他说，市政对新的市中心公园感到“兴奋”，其中包括中央商务区的Market街公园和北岸的Seafarers Rest公园。



“我希望看到在Southbank建造一个可获殊荣的世界一流公园。重要的是，我希望看到新的空间并不是一个孤立的考虑，而是以一种综合的方式进行公园设计，使之成为

公众可享用的空间，我认为这将极大地增加该区域的舒适性，并将受到Southbank居民的欢迎。”



莎莉·卡普连任市长

Sean Car

现任市长莎莉·卡普(Sally Capp)在她的第一个任期结束后，于10月24日再次当选为墨尔本市市长。

卡普女士和她的(工党)新任副市长尼古拉斯·里斯(Nicholas Reece)以53%对46%的优势击败了最接近的挑战者阿伦·伍德(Arron Wood)和他的副手丽莎·德(Lisa Teh)。

维多利亚州选举委员会于11月4日正式公布了选举结果，卡普团队在选举中获得了近28000张初选选票，这是有史以来选民参与度最高的一次选举。

虽然绿党在初选中获得的选票比伍德团队多1000多张，但在选票偏好分布后，伍

德团队与卡普团队的差距不到7%。

再次当选的卡普市长说：“随着选举结果的公布，我很荣幸能再次领导墨尔本。”

“在新冠疫情造成的破坏之后，我们面临着重振墨尔本的巨大挑战，这将是一项艰巨的任务，我保证我和我的团队不会辜负你们的期望。”

新市政议会的组成也在11月4日公布，入选的九个议员席位有六张新面孔。

在任的凯文·洛伊(Kevin Louey)与新议员、自由党成员罗什纳·坎贝尔(Roshena Campbell)一起以卡普团队的名义再次当选，市长有了这四人的团队，在新市政议会中发挥投票表决作用。

绿党候选人罗汉·莱珀特(Rohan Lepert)也与新面孔奥利维亚·鲍尔(Olivia Ball)

博士一起再次当选，鲍尔博士将接替即将退休的三届绿党议员凯茜·奥克(Cathy Oke)进入新的市政议会。

自由党成员菲利普·刘乐(Philip Le Liu)和尼克·罗逊(Nick Russian)领导的以非官方自由党候选人身份再次当选。

新当选的议员还有伍德团队的杰森·张(Jason Chang)、杨千惠(Jennifer Yang)团队以及CFMEU代表伊丽莎白·多伊奇(Elizabeth Doidge)以及工党成员大卫·格里菲斯(Davyd Griffiths)。

最大的震撼也许是独立候选人--Docklands港区居民贾马尔·哈基姆(Jamal Hakim) 出人意料的胜选，尽管他的初选得票率非常低，但他还是在选票偏好分布后悄然当选。

市政宣布振兴计划

随着维多利亚州慢慢从封锁中走出，墨尔本很快就会吸引游客带着一股充满“害怕错过(FOMO)心情”回到市中心及其那些备受喜爱的场所、餐厅和公共空间。

Sean Car

在维多利亚州经历了COVID-19第二波疫情打击之后，这对市中心的商家和居民来说是一个可喜的消息，市政将很快启动一项特色营销宣传，通过一系列COVID安全的活动来振兴这座城市。

一个题为“FOMO”的宣传促销活动，目的是吸引游客回到CBD及其周边区域，通过一系列活动，展示墨尔本独特的城市体验。本月的《Docklands 新闻》报道了该活动的细节。

一项由市政委托的研究表明，在COVID疫情之后，人群的流动和公共交通等挑战日益严峻，但是消费者表示，市中心仍然是举办庆典、节日、博物馆展出、美术馆展出、演出、餐饮和购物的最佳地点。

预计明年1月启动的FOMO宣传促销活动，将寻求重塑墨尔本的城市形象和人员的互动，让人们能感受许多在封闭期间“错过”的最喜爱的口味、声音和体验。

在展示墨尔本的活动中，让人们真正体验FOMO、墨尔本最受欢迎的场所、商家举办的各种优惠活动，以COVID安全的方式来吸引人们。

有关该宣传活动的更多细节有望在今年晚些时候宣布，许多有关支持举措，如“小街”行人专用道和户外餐饮基础设施，已经在实施中。

届时还会举办一些促销活动，例如“FOMO 星期五”和特殊的FOMO活动，寻求与市内辖区和商业的合作，提供特殊的优惠和体验。其他的活动包括已公开讨论的一系列想法建议，例如户外娱乐、户外用餐和城市导视体验。



墨尔本广场的零售商揭晓

Jack Hayes

喜悦悦耳，当地居民迎来首家全规模超市，Woolworths即将在Southbank的墨尔本广场(MSQ)开业。

在屡获殊荣的墨尔本广场区域签署了一系列租户合约后，Woolworths Southbank将与一些食品和零售商一起于12月中旬开业。

开发商OSK地产已经确认，这个价值28亿澳元项目的所有可租赁场地已全部租出，其中包括一个新的房地产办公场地，占地6250平方米，位于该区域的平台层。

OSK 地产的销售和营销总监斯科特·杰索普(Scott Jessop)表示，这些业务将为Southbank丰富多彩的餐厅组合又添加了一个层次，为墨尔本广场的居民、工作人员、未来的希尔顿酒店客人以及更大范围的Southbank社区提供更多选择。

杰索普先生说：“到明年年初，墨尔本

广场将成为我们城市一个生机勃勃的区域。我们正处在第一阶段建设的最后施工阶段，该阶段将为Southbank提供一个综合的工作生活区域。”

“这些零售商店位于公共公园上方的平台上，将提升当地居民和游客的区域体验。不久之后，我们就会吸引人们在公园里享用咖啡或三明治，在阳光普照的草地上尽情享受。”

他说，零售组合旨在满足居民和当地工作人员的需求，提供一系列快速的咖啡馆风格食物，并为MSQ房地产公司提供一个新办公区域。

在这个两个层面4300平方米的零售区域里，有Woolworths超市以及各种各样的餐馆，还有Southbank唯一的BWS酒类专卖店。

欲知更多信息，请访问melbourn-square.com.au

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April to October

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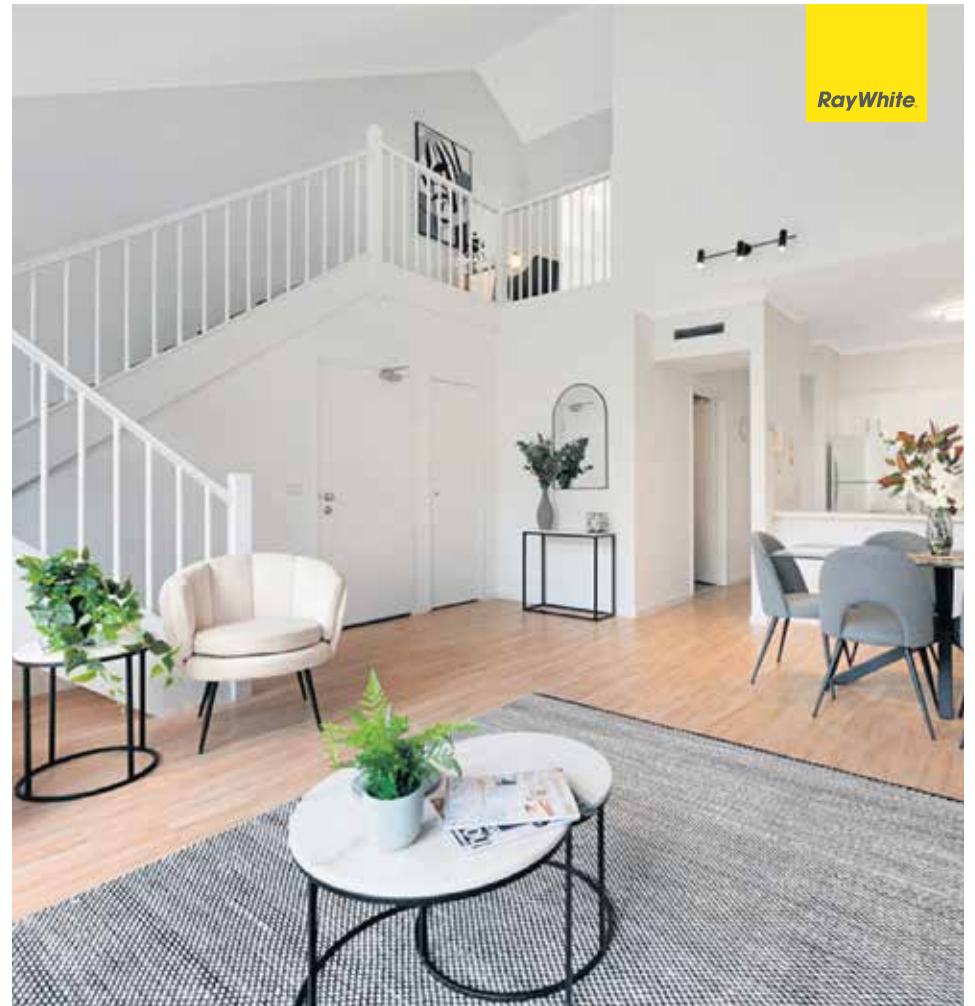
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